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Roads to the gods

Follow these centuries-old secret incense routes to Mt. Miaofeng's temples.

Pages 12-13 The Bund's legend

A Bund personified recounts the tales of old Shanghai to explore the origins of the modern city.



MADE FOR

C HINA

No longer satisfied with the latest trenchcoats and bags from the boutiques of New York and Milan, China's nouveau riche are after something even more exclusive: luxury goods made for China.

Initially slow in its response, the multinational luxury industry is coming to terms with the fact that "made for China" means more than slapping stock dragon stencils on everything in its current lineup.

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New commission in charge of landmark protection

By Chu Meng

The Commission for the Protection of the Historical and Cultural Landmarks in Beijing, established Monday by the municipal government, is the first government-level organization dedicated to preserving historic urban buildings.

Headed by Mayor Guo Jinlong, the commission will consult other preservation organizations in the city to decide which historical constructions to preserve and how.

The new commission will also review all demolition proposals for commercial and non-commercial projects approved by the city, Guo said.

"The new commission shows our determination to better protect the city's urban areas," he said.

The commission consists of Guo, four other governmental authorities and 20 consultants separated into four panels covering the preservation of urban constructions, new central urban planning, project review and intangible cultural heritage protection.

"Protecting old Beijing is an urgent need as modernization has accelerated. A 'World City' must start with an identity and history of its own," Guo said.

The current Beijing Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning, Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform and other relative governmental organizations will be the new commission's implementation bodies.

Xu Pingfang, one of top



The new commission will decide which historical constructions in Beijing are most worth preserving.

CFP Photo

experts of historical construction preservation, said the new commission is a public sign of a shift in government priorities.

"Our major task will be drawing 'road redlines' for the urban area," he said. These redlines would mark boundaries between land for roads and land open to development and would serve as a new framework for city planning.

"Beijing's current redlines came to us as a blueprint drafted by experts from the former Soviet Union in 1955. They were the ones who decided where to dig subways," he said.

Rapid economic development together with sometimes random commercial and residential expansion have eroded all the original redlines.

The merging of Dongcheng and Chongwen into New Dongcheng district, and of Xicheng and Xuanwu into New Xicheng district, presented other new challenges. The merged districts were home to 80 percent of the city's remaining old courtyards and hutongs.

Much public criticism of the merger focused on the risk posed to these old neighborhoods. But Shu Yi, a cul-

tural heritage protection expert, countered on his blog that "the merge would expedite protection of historical constructions in all four districts."

"Economic development will break down many of the boundaries in traditional administrative divisions, so change is inevitable unless we do something," said Du Liquan, deputy director of the Beijing Institute of City Planning and Design.

The new redlines will zone off the most important aging hutong and courtyard to block real estate developers from using that land.

Doctor says superbug unlikely to spread in China

Top Chinese medical scientists said a superbug is unlikely to be as widespread as epidemics such as SARS and A/H1N1 influenza after traces of a multi-drug-resistant superbug were found in the country Tuesday.

Ni Yuxing, director of the Clinical Microbiology Department at Ruijin Hospital in Shanghai, said the bug is less contagious than SARS and A/H1N1.

More than 170 first-grade public hospitals joined the national drug-resistant bacteria surveillance network since 2005, and the Ministry of Health has designated 20 hospitals nationwide to monitor the NDM-1 bacteria since its appearance, he said.

China's health authorities Tuesday announced the country's first three cases of NDM-1, a multi-drug resistant super bacteria.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) official Ni Daxin said at a press conference that two cases were detected from samples submitted by the local CDC in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and one from Fujian Province.

The samples from Ningxia were drawn from the feces of two infants born on March 8 and March 11. Both were born underweight and showed symptoms of diarrhea and respiratory infections two days after birth. One suffered an oxygen deficiency.

One of the babies recovered after nine days in the hospital and the other after 14 days. They remained healthy, Ni said.

Although the two babies were diagnosed as carriers of the NDM-1 bacteria, there was no link between the bacteria and their illnesses, he said.

The other sample from Fujian was identified as belonging to an 83-year-old, who died on June 11. Ni said the primary cause of death was advanced lung cancer, and the role of the drug-resistant bacteria in his illness was unclear.

The bacteria was identified in laboratories of the CDC and Academy of Military Medical Sciences from 3,500 samples. Ni told Xinhua the detection rate was still low.

Ni said it was impossible to trace the origin of the bacteria, because the samples were already dated.

However, because the bacteria has not spread between people there is still no cause for panic, Ni said.

"It is only contagious through medical activities, so hospitals and clinics must be on high alert," he said.

Ni said the CDC would expand its pool of samples for NDM-1 testing.

NDM-1 is most prevalent in South Asia, but has also been found in the UK, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada, the US and Sweden.

(By Han Manman)

Countryside faces lack of safe drinking water

By Li Zhixin

More than 100 million people in the countryside still lack access to safe drinking water, according to a report published Monday by the Ministry of Water Resources and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The report painted a grim picture of rural access to drinking water. What few water sources there are vanishing rapidly as pollution worsens.

Pollutants destroying rural water come primarily from town and village enterprises, breeding farms, widespread abuse of fertilizers and pesticides and a failure to properly dispose of solid waste – the last problem due mainly to a lack of any sewage treatment systems.

The report proposed a series of measures that could help bolster existing water resources: the renewal of natural rivers, methane-safe landfills and "courtyard wetlands" that could be used for home processing of rural sewage.

It also advocated organic

farming to minimize fertilizer and pesticide use.

The report, the first to propose rural water safety projects, was compiled by 20 experts from the ministry, the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydro-power Research and China Agricultural University.

"Currently, more than a third of all rivers and lakes are contaminated and half have damaged ecosystems," said Zhu Chunquan, project director of the WWF.

He said China faces both a water scarcity and a resource management problem.

"Drinkable water is a baseline need for human existence. Finding a way to live without damaging our water supplies is the next big challenge," he said.

Since 2005, the ministry has invested 100 billion yuan in rural water projects. It opened 10,000 water supply factories during the last four years to address the water problems of 165 million rural residents.

This year, the government

pledged to help another 60 million rural people gain access to clean water: that goal is far from being met.

"The protection of water sources in rural China is very weak. We need policy support or technical and financial support to make any progress. We have to identify and stop the sources of water pollutants before we can expect any improvement in the environment," said Wang Hao, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

"Water pollution has grown worse with the economic boom. We're past the point where simple engineering projects can turn the situation around," said Li Yangbin, director of the ministry's Irrigation and Drainage Center.

The joint report is the latest product of a joint protection agreement between the ministry and the WWF that began in 2008. The groups have pledged to work together on public education projects and policy research.



Much of the countryside lacks access to potable water. CFP Photo

Mudslinging turns libelous in online milk war

By Chu Meng

One of the top two dairy giants, Mengniu Dairy Corporation, apologized to Yili Dairy Group for fabricating an online smear against Yili's children's milk products as part of a marketing strategy in July.

The arrests of An Yong, product manager of Mengniu's liquid milk department, and three workers at BossePR, its media agency, by police in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region brought an end to the defamation war.

The apology was published on Mengniu's official website and penned by the company's vice president, Hu Sudong. The statement claimed that the defamation was the work of an employee named An Yong, who acted without the permission of upper management. It said that An has been fired.

An worked with an Internet PR agency to spread accusations that an element, called eicosapentaenoic acid, was found in Yili's children's milk products and was harmful. It is a normal component of fish oil.

Since switching the commercial battleground from print to the Internet, cutthroat competition and lies are rampant in Chinese business.

"The good news is that the incident was only harmful to their reputation instead of to my boy's body," said Zhao Lei, the mother of a 4-year-old. However, she complained that product information and reviews on the Internet are becoming increasingly less trustworthy.

Sam Flemming, chairman and founder of CIC, a Chinese

online media marketing analytics firm, said in an email interview that the public relations industry was introduced to China in the late 1990s by multinationals. They have seen a dramatic transformation since making the jump to the Web.

"There are no rules or regulations to keep China's online marketing in order," he said. Public relations is seen as a low-entrance industry where it is easy to make money through connections. Small firms open every second. Many of them are applying the unethical advertising practices to outdoor digital media boards.

The costs of widespread online libel are also very low, opening the door to many companies willing to aid in the distribution of fake information.

Flemming said blogs and bulletin boards are emerging as powerful modes of communication as traditional media crumbles. This growing freedom has made both brands and brand managers interested in tracking their consumers online.

"This can be a far more effective platform for building up one's own reputation and demolishing another's. Until the government passes new laws, we can only rely on self-discipline and commercial ethics to reign in libel," he said.

Mengniu and Yili control more than 55 percent of China's liquid milk market. The conflict between the dairy giants dates back to 1999, when Niu Gensheng, a senior executive of Yili at that time, was dismissed by the company to establish Mengniu with a team of ex-Yili personnel.



Mengniu and Yili are still battling for control of China's liquid milk market. CFP Photo

Gov's Google Earth competitor gets lukewarm reception from users

By Li Zhixin

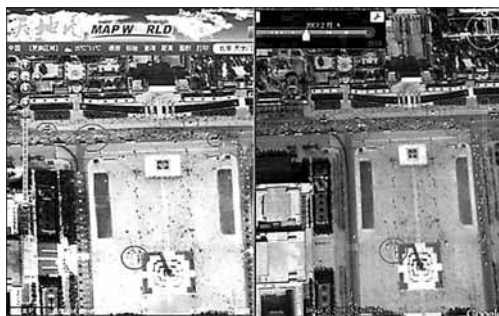
The State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping launched a new satellite mapping service, Tianditu, available at tianditu.cn, last Thursday.

However, netizens were quick to point out an uncanny similarity to Google Earth in the independently created program.

Despite claims of originality, William Long, a tech blogger, said Tianditu's high-resolution images of central Beijing appear to be the same as the images Google Earth used in 2007.

"If they are from different sources, the quantity and positions of vehicles on the same roads should be different," he said. "But I found the same number of buses and cars in the same positions with the same colors."

The bureau said that Tianditu only claims intellectual property rights to its data processing and management software, and to its interface. It said the satellite



Many netizens say images from Tianditu(left) are too similar to Google Earth. Photo provided by William Long

images were purchased from a common commercial provider.

Other netizens complained that the information was outdated. While the Chongwen and Xuanwu districts were dissolved several months ago, they are still clearly marked on the current maps.

The slow browsing speed was

another major complaint.

"The current system is a beta version and is far from perfect," said Jiang Jie, a spokeswoman for the National Geomatics Center. "We have received nearly 2,000 suggestions about how to improve it since launching the service."

However, the new service appears to have far more detailed street maps of China than Google.

"Even names of shops and office buildings are marked in full. It's easy to come away with the impression that Tianditu is the first to provide a fully accurate transportation and tourism map of China," Long said.

Although Google has not applied for a Web mapping license in China, its mapping service is still accessible from computers on the Chinese mainland.

Regulations issued by the bureau in May required companies providing online mapping and location services to apply for a license.

Licenses are only granted to companies who host their map-providing servers within the country. Google has not kept any servers on the mainland since March, and is therefore ineligible for a license.

Church of the Sacred Heart opens restoration

By Zhao Hongyi

After a two-year reconstruction effort, the Academy of the Church of the Sacred Heart has regained its original facade and is once again a mission for the capital's Christians.

The reconstruction was based on the photos and paintings of the academy in 1887, when it featured a combination of Chinese and Western architectural styles.

The new building consists of four traditional Beijing courtyards with furnishings and Western-style decorations.

Xi Shanyi, a serviceman at the church, said the success was due in part to strong support from the capital's Christian community.

Nearly one third of the church was rebuilt to undo damage wrought by its conversion to the city's 39th Middle School in 1958. In 2003, the middle school re-located to a new facility.

The total cost of the project was 30 million yuan.

Beijing has six Catholic churches and five Protestant churches.

The four biggest Catholic churches are St. Joseph's Cathedral (Dong Tang), located on Wangfujing, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (Nan Tang), located on Xuanwumen, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Xi Tang), located on Xizhimen, and the Church of the Sacred Heart (Bei Tang), located on Xishiku.

The biggest Protestant churches are on Chongwenmen, Zhushikou, Gangwashi and Haidian.

The Church of the Sacred Heart was originally built in 1703 at the northern end of Zhongnanhai, bordering the Forbidden City. Empress Kangxi allocated a spare corner on the northwest of the city for a Christian church.

It was relocated to Xishiku in 1887 when the royal family began construction of Zhongnanhai.

The church was the first major base of the city's Christian and missionary community. It was burned during the Boxer Rebellion in 1900.

The main building of the church is a Gothic cathedral with a 31-meter bell tower. The main building was restored in 1985.

The reopening marks the end of the first phase of construction. The second and third phases will focus on restoring the interior decorations and adding a heating system.

Part of the academy will be used as the center for coordinating events between the city's Catholic parishes. Another part will be used as a public exhibit on Catholic culture.

The original church had affiliate buildings, including a printing house, an orphanage, a library, a hospital, a girl's school and a garden.

Young entrepreneurs plunge into era of the startup

By Zhang Dongya

A new list of the Top 150 enterprises of the best investment value was published at the 2010 China CEO Summit on October 21. This fifth appraisal by Zero2IPO Group enumerated unlisted mainland enterprises that have shown explosive growth.

A few of the listed startups are the creations of a new generation of university students exploring the new fields of biotechnology, new energy and medicine.

The list is one of the most authoritative appraisals used by Chinese venture capitalists and a wind vane pointing to future growth. Last year, 11 of the Top 50 enterprises went public and 13 were awarded with financing worth 2.74 billion yuan.



Ni Zhengdong, CEO of the Zero2IPO, says that China's enormous growth has made this year the best ever for both investors and entrepreneurs.
Photo provided by Zero2IPO

Early recognition

Liu Bo, 30, was invited to the Venture 50 Award and the China CEO Summit by Zero2IPO Group in September to celebrate the inclusion of Hewitec, his company, on the list of China's Top 150 enterprises.

The Shanghai startup, founded last April by a team of eight, specializes in parts for new-energy vehicles. It was recommended for inclusion on the list by the Innovation Center of Yangpu District, Shanghai.

"I was excited," Liu said. "This was a really influential event that could help to give our team a new push. New energy vehicles will have a large market in the future, and we are on the forefront of the new trend."

According to the draft of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, the government forecasts that sales of new energy vehicles will reach 1 million by 2015.

Still on the road

After graduating from Tongji University in Shanghai, Liu worked for Bosch Automotive Shanghai for a year and a half.

Many graduates daydream about starting a company, but Liu put his dreams into action.

"This is the dawn of the new energy vehicle industry, and everything is favorable to us," he said. Liu quit his job to start Hewitec in a 50-square-meter office.

Financing was the first major challenge. Liu and his team applied to many venture capital programs run by the central and local government. His company holds the record for the most capital ever granted by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Now, they are expecting another infusion following the second Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition in Shenzhen next month. The competition will award the Top 15 startup enterprises, with 200,000 yuan for the first prize.

Hewitec is a shoo-in for the Top 15.

Last year, it won second prize in the DFJ and Cisco Global Business Plan Competition China division. There was no reward, but it brought new confidence and faith to the new team.

But it hasn't all been so easy. The team already lost one chance to receive an infusion of 5 million yuan when internal conflict over what to do with money rattled



Liu Bo (middle)'s one-year-old company is listed as one of the "Top 150." He hopes the achievement will motivate his young team.
Photo provided by Hewitec



More students in China are choosing to start their own business after graduation.
CFP Photo

“Never overlook small, young companies. Many big companies started out as small ones, including Baidu and Tencent. I believe many startups attending the ceremony will be the big companies of the future.”

—Ni Zhengdong, CEO of the Zero2IPO

the investor's confidence.

"The team is young, so it is unstable," Liu said.

The workers also struggle for recognition as a company working outside the consumer market in research and development — an area notorious for breaking budgets.

During the last year at the company,

Liu has rejected offers of attractive salaries and high positions. He even shot down one offer to be a well-paid investment manager in Shanghai. He also refused a buyout offer in March.

To Hewitec's credit, the team members seem fully prepared for the future, including the temptations and challenges faced by every startup, Liu said.

One of those challenges is surviving long enough to turn a profit.

"The industry is just starting, so we need to be patient and persistent," he said.

Hewitec's new focus is on cooperating with local government. It is planning to open production bases in Nanjing, Changzhou and Wujiang in Jiangsu Province.

His big dreams are a common feature of Chinese startups.

Once seen as pariahs lost outside the mainstream industrial system, startup enterprises are becoming a respectable career choice in China, said Ni Zhengdong, CEO of the Zero2IPO, said at the CEO Summit 2010.

"When I studied in university, I was the only one choosing to start my own business. Everyone else just went abroad to study. Now, things have changed. I hope more people can see the value of innovation and a pioneering spirit," he said.

A promising future

In fact, the Top 150 targets for venture capitalists include some 15 enterprises that have yet to reach their third birthday. One of these is No.1 Vancle, an online company specializing in urban clothing.

"Never overlook small, young companies. Many big companies started out as small ones, including Baidu and Tencent. I believe many startups attending the ceremony will be the big companies of the future," Ni said.

2010 has been kind to many startups seeking investment.

"The last decade has seen a spike in capital power. I still remember 2000, when it only took two tables to seat the 20 venture capitalists who came to the summit," Ni said.

By 2007, there were 94 venture capitalists looking to throw money at creative and sound businesses. This year there are more than 120, and there may be 130 before the year is out.

"This growth is unprecedented in the history of the world," Ni said. "Everyone is focused on raising funds and investing, and new companies are going public in China."

"The investment is boiling," he said.

Liu shared this feverish optimism.

He hopes to push Hewitec to become one of the top three firms in the Battery Management System (BMS) industry within four years, and to extend his business to detection of core automotive components soon after.

Dogs reflect nation's rise

New York Times article praises China's dog owners

The country's dogs are under the world spotlight again, but this time it's not because of abuse. An article in the *New York Times* on October 14 looks at dog ownership in Beijing and calls it a herald of "how quickly this nation is hurtling through its transformation from impoverished peasant to first-world citizen."

Raising dogs is a social phenomenon that could be a sign of China's rise, the *New York Times* reported.

The *Times* reporter interviewed Qiu Hong, a Beijing local who owns a trim Siberian husky. Qiu, a successful sports marketer, pampers his pet with imported American toys and grooming tools, and pays about \$300 (2,000 yuan) a month for the dog's food.

"Twenty years ago, there were hardly any dogs in Beijing, and the few that were here stood a chance of landing on a dinner plate. It remains possible even today to find dog-meat dishes here," the article said.

"But it is far easier to find dog-treat stores, dog Web sites, dog social networks, dog swimming pools – even, for a time recently, a bring-your-dog cinema and a bring-your-dog bar on Bei-



Many senior citizens in the capital raise dogs as their companions.

Sha Lang/CFP Photo

jing's downtown nightclub row."

"People used to be focused on improving their own lives, and they weren't really acquainted with raising dogs," Qiu was quoted as saying.

"But with the improvement in the economy, people's outlooks have changed. There's a lot of stress in people's lives, and having a dog is a way to relieve it."

Beijing officials told the *Times* that there are about 900,000 dogs in the city and their numbers grow 10 percent a year. There are also untold numbers of unregistered dogs.

Many dog owners want their pets to be companions for their children, while others believe dogs are a status symbol for upwardly mobile Beijingers.

The amount of money invested in dogs, however, has stirred controversy. Some say dogs are disturbing normal life.

"The resources that you conserve from having less people, you give to dogs?" a netizen asked. "This is a very serious problem. Are you saying that people are worth less than dogs?"

(By Huang Daohen)

Local's voice

By Huang Daohen

"What a waste, throwing money at dogs! Don't the Chinese have compassion? There are millions of people living below the poverty line," said Chen Jia, an elder who lives near Chaoyang Park in Chaoyang District.

"I concede this article is appropriate, but somehow I feel it is not representative," said Chen, who has a dog named Shaishai.

Chen said most of his friends who raise dogs just feed them leftover food. "Life is rough enough for us," he said. "Why should we pamper our pets?"

"If you have \$300 per month to spend on a dog, it makes more sense to spend that on senior citizens, who have given their best years to their families and the country!"

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From Made-in-China to Made-for-China



Fashion ads dominate Shanghai's signboards.
Wu Changqing/AGPhoto

Global brands are finally wooing consumers in the world's factory. Last month, France's luxury giant Hermes announced its first store in Shanghai, following in the steps of Louis Vuitton luggage and Fendi baguettes.

Once, China was making for the world; now the world is tailoring for China. *Business Week* recently wrote on the new trend of luxury firms looking east for new consumers.

Conspicuous consumption may be out of fashion in the West. But in China, the luxury-goods business is booming, and the rich are becoming more discriminating than ever.

No longer satisfied with snapping up the same Louis Vuitton luggage and Fendi baguettes they can find in New York or Paris, Chinese consumers are demanding luxury goods that are tailored especially to them.

The French luxury giant Hermes recently opened a boutique in Shanghai for its new Chinese brand, Shang Xai. The offerings are in stark contrast to the brand's colorful trademark silk scarves.

There are Ming-style chairs, egg-shell porcelain bowls and jewelry inspired by unusual Chinese collectible baubles, such as teapots. The materials used – zitan wood, lacquer and Mongolian cashmere – are luxurious and local. Packed with customers since opening, the boutique has generated huge buzz, and other Western brands are taking notice.

American and European multinationals from Coca-Cola to Procter & Gamble have been trying for decades to capitalize on the world's most populous nation, but for many top brands progress has been surprisingly slow.

That's in part because China is still a relatively poor country with a high savings rate. But also, it's because many big brands have simply dumped their exist-

ing products on the Chinese market, with little thought to tailoring their wares to the audience beyond changing the language on the packaging.

"Until quite recently, the attitude has been, 'Let's invent in the West and ship to China,'" says Hubert Hsu, a senior partner at Boston Consulting Group and leader of the firm's consumer practice in China. "It didn't work."

But companies are beginning to wise up – and none too soon. With Western markets for luxury goods in a slump since the financial crisis, retailers are focusing on China, which is on course to become the world's third-largest consumer market, worth \$2.3 trillion, by 2025, according to the consulting firm McKinsey.

The Chinese already buy more cars and televisions than anyone else, and they are No. 2 when it comes to PC sales.

Any number of other categories are booming, from jewelry (up 25 percent a year) to cosmetics (up 20 percent) to luxury automobiles (up 50 percent).

"The redistribution of global growth following the financial crisis was more dramatic than anyone could have predicted," says McKinsey's Yuval Atsmon. "There's now a sense amongst many foreign firms that they need to start treating China as their home market."

(Business Week)

Analyst

A tough market to make for China

By Huang Daohen

Though there is growing appetite for foreign brands among Chinese consumers, global brands still have a long way to go if they plan to market to China, said Wen Yijun, senior analyst with Oriental Securities in Beijing.

Fewer consumers are choosing local brands today, due in part to a confidence fatally shaken by the Sanlu milk incident and other sources of national shame.

At the same time, the prices of global brands have been falling as incomes are rising, he said.

The local appetite for foreign brands has led many enterprising domestic firms to repackage themselves as something foreign. Local fashion firm Metersbonwe is one example, Wen said. According to a survey by McKinsey, 90 percent of respondents believed that Metersbonwe was a foreign brand.

Nevertheless, Wen said most multinational companies in China find the country has been a tough market.

The Fiat group was one typical example, Wen said. The Italian automaker set up a factory and launched its product in China very early. The market was strong, at first, as Chinese consumers associated it with good quality at an affordable price.

But today, Fiat's sales are too low to rank in the Top 10. "One of the important reasons is that Chinese people greatly value the appearances of cars, but the look of the European Fiat was ill-suited to local consumer preference, even if the cars were better performers," Wen said.

While Fiat stumbled on this first step, Japanese carmakers did well in adapting their products.

Wen said the technology embargo also made the China market tough for high-technology foreign companies to crack.

One of the basic approaches taken by high-tech firms is "defeatization," Wen said. Some firms simply strip unnecessary features from their product to reduce costs and match local prices.

"In the past, many engineers who were working at the forefront of technology wouldn't waste time with a low-end market like China. That has to change if they want to succeed here," Wen said.

Report says nation to be No. 2 by 2050

By Huang Daohen

The country's current rate of growth could make it the world's second most powerful nation by 2050, trailing only the US, according to the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

The 2010 Report on the National Competitiveness of China, released Monday, said that in terms of global competitiveness China continues to lag behind developed competitors.

CASS ranked China as the 17th most powerful nation based on data collected during 2008, and said it expected the US to stay on top for many years.

When viewed only in economic terms, China has been one of the five most powerful countries since 1992. It is currently on track to become the world's largest economy by 2030.

"But we need to foster new growth areas to prevent a burn out because of the extensive economic growth," Ni Pengfei, director of the Research Center for City and Competitiveness under the CASS, was quoted by Xinhua News Agency as saying.

Despite the optimistic forecast, the country lagged behind the US, the EU and Japan in 2008.

A similar report by the World Economic Forum recently ranked China 27th, bumping it up two spots in the last year. But the country remains weak as a global contender, the report said.

Zhao Xiao, a local economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, agrees.

As far as market size is concerned, China is the second largest market after the US. But Zhao said growth efforts must be refocused on technological innovation, the financial market and higher education.

Zhao said Chinese companies are weak innovators and have a reputation for plagiarism. A modernization of industry and new domestic technologies will be essential for the country's further development, Zhao said.

In the field of financial markets, Zhao said the domestic market has over-emphasized commercial banking and individual finance.

"That makes it very hard for small- to medium-sized enterprises to get fund," Zhao said.

A mature financial market should be market oriented and part of the global competitions, Zhao said.

Zhao also criticized the higher education system for producing too many graduates, many of whom must trade in their diploma for vocational training.

In the end, talent may be the key factor in the country's global competitiveness, he said.

The risk of charity

By Wang Yu

Last Wednesday, a local newspaper reported on the plight of Gao Maiyun, an old woman who supports her family by working as a water deliverer in Shijingshan district.

Twelve years ago, Gao's second son ran away, leaving behind a mentally disabled son. Gao's eldest son lost his liver and spleen in a car accident soon afterwards, and today receives only 450 yuan a month as disability pay. Then in February, Gao's

husband died, leaving her as the family's main provider.

Gao opened a water delivery business in 2002, but the article said she's the company's lone able-bodied staffer – one of Gao's grandsons apparently hurt his leg in an elevator in 2008.

The family pulls in 3,000 yuan a month, which isn't enough to get Gao's grandson the money he needs for surgery. The hospital requires an advance of 10,000 yuan.

The story spread on the Internet through social networking sites and micro-blogs. People soon began to donate money. Gao received 100,000 yuan in two days.

The story doesn't have a happy ending, however. The local community department announced last Thursday that the story's reporter made serious errors in his account. Gao does not have to make "more than 100 deliveries a day" – her son and grandson continue doing most of the work. And it turns

out her grandson is also exempt from many schooling costs.

Gao's neighbors criticized the woman for asking the media to publicize her story. Gao accused her neighbors of being jealous.

But Gao said she contacted the media several times in the past and had received as much as 25,000 yuan in donations since 2006. She said much of the money will be passed on to other charities.

Comment

Media should be more responsible

I think it's reasonable for the old woman to ask the media for help – that is an effective way of letting people know about her condition – but the media should be responsible for checking the story before publishing it. There were no interviews conducted with the neighbors or other people in the community. All we have is her story.

As for the audience, people donate money and feel good because of it; no one

cares about the truth.

– Vincent Wen, IT engineer

Her neighbors know the truth

The media has created the image of a poor old woman who has to work to support her entire family. This has all the elements of a tear-jerker.

The old woman's story is very touching to everyone except her neighbors, who see more of the real story: the woman's family doesn't get along, so they go to the media for help. The neighbors think Gao is cheat-

ing people out of their sympathy, and that's understandable.

– Mao Longsheng, citizen in Beijing

She really needs help

Life can be hard, for some more than others. Yes, Mrs. Gao may have used methods that may not appear noble or moral, but after all, she was in a bad situation. Now it seems that she not only has to deal with the unfortunate circumstances that have plagued her family, but she also has the extra weight of the public condemning

her motives and actions.

– Jack Anory, British teacher

Need more charity like this

On one hand, the case shows that netizens are eager to give to charity. But why are people so willing to donate to a woman whose story they only know through micro-blogs? I think it's because people don't trust the traditional charity system – they are not sure where their money goes. When someone slips through the social welfare net, charity fills the gap.

– He Yuxin, editor

Gov may restrict begging and performing on public transportation

By Chu Meng

Buskers and beggars may soon disappear from Beijing's buses and subways as part of reforms to public transportation safety statutes.

On Monday, the Legislative Affairs Office under the State Council issued a draft of administrative regulations that would forbid begging and performances of all kinds on buses and subways. Passengers can report violators to the police via a mobile hotline.

Smoking, drinking alcohol, bringing pets, handing out commercial flyers and other activities that may potentially affect security will be forbidden, and violators will be fined.

Some lawyers are questioning the necessity of such an ordinance. Since begging and street performances are allowed in public spaces, they argue, why restrict them on buses and subways?



A handicapped Chinese girl writes a lengthy plea for help in chalk on a sidewalk in central Beijing on July 6. Stephen Shaver/IC Photo

Comment

Subway singers will disappear

I love to see and hear young men singing in underground passages to the subway stations. They are street performers. People give them money if they want – I did that in the Guomao subway station for some time. Will they be driven away as well?

I think they bring a unique underground culture to the city. They are cool, like New York subway performers.

I also heard that a lot of promising young singers and guitar players who write their own songs and music have

experience performing in underground passages. Some of them are very talented, and some even go on to sign contracts with music agencies.

– Song Chenfeng, Beijinger who studied in New York for five years

Begging is part of urbanization

Begging is an inevitable result of urbanization. In the long run, the government should provide more professional training opportunities and create more jobs to reduce the number of beggars. In the meantime, it's impossible to expect beggars to disappear.

The government should reach out to them and establish a social welfare net as a way of maintaining order, instead of simply driving them out of certain areas.

– Cai He,

sociologist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Punish fake beggars

There are professional beggars and street performers in many countries. They are protected by the government, receiving frequent salvation from NGOs in the form of free food and clothes on holidays. They beg, but they don't disturb the public order.

Theoretically, beggars in China should be protected as well. However, there are many "fake beggars." They are not homeless at all. Some are children who are forced into begging. Others even curse at passengers if they aren't given money. In cases like these, yes, restrictions should be implemented.

– Xing Yu, senior director of marketing of Global Flying magazine

Difficult execution

Administrative laws and regulations are welcomed, but implementation is extremely difficult.

Begging does not violate laws, so the government can't throw beggars into prison. Administrative regulations mean the police only can fine or detain them. Days after, they'll return to the buses and try again.

The reason? They have no better place to go. The fundamental task should be the establishment of a more harmonious society with a mature welfare system to provide for the homeless.

– Zhang Yi, researcher from the China Communist Youth League Beijing Committee

Carrying forward the spirit of the Flying Tigers

By Liang Meilan

During World War II, an American volunteer air force team called the Flying Tiger played a crucial role in helping the Chinese army fight against the Japanese, which created a solid link in Sino-American relations.

Sixty years later, Flying Tiger descendants, led by director Michael F. Bianco, are keeping the Tigers' spirit alive with the Flying Tiger Historical Organization.

The organization has already done a lot to win the Flying Tigers recognition for their contribution during the war. Now they are looking ahead, with grand plans in place.



Bianco with his son

Photos provided by Michael Bianco



Soong Ching-ling hosting a dinner in 1979 at her Beijing home for Michael Bianco.

Wings of the Flying Tigers

Michael Bianco is the nephew and godson of Major S. Thomas "Bud" Bianco, one of the Flying Tigers. As a young child, Michael grew up listening to stories of his uncle's exploits in the war.

He remembers his uncle as very tall and always immaculately dressed, in a crisp, clean uniform. Bud was also a lawyer, which certainly helped his image in young Michael's eyes.

Bianco recalled a story told by

his uncle about how hardworking and efficient Chinese workers constructed a runway for the Flying Tigers in record time.

"The Chinese villagers treated my uncle like their family. They would risk their lives to hide and save my uncle," he said.

"My uncle really loved China and Chinese people, even though he suffered from malaria and extreme stress during the war."

Influenced by his uncle, Bianco developed a love for aviation at a

very young age. "I still remember my favorite gift was a P-40 model airplane given to me by my uncle when I was 3 years old," he said.

Bianco became involved with the aviation industry. He was an intern at NASA on the Saturn 5 moon program, then became a private pilot.

In 2006, Bianco was one of the major initiators of the Flying Tiger Historical Organization. He quickly put his lifelong fascination with the Flying Tigers to work.

New war memorial

In January, the foundation was laid for Flying Tiger Historical Park, which is expected to open in Guilin, Guangxi in two years.

This is the biggest project the Flying Tiger Historical Organization has ever undertaken. It includes the restoration of a cave near Yuanyang Airport, the former base of the Flying Tigers, as well as the construction of a museum and a plaza.

To make this possible, Bianco has been trying every means to win recognition from the government and raise funds. He plans to buy an original Flying Tiger plane from a private collector and donate it to the Guilin museum.

"They are very well known

in China," Bianco said about the Flying Tigers. "But in America they are not as well known. People think about the war in Europe and they don't think much about the Pacific front."

He feels his job is to educate Americans about his uncle's crew, and for someone in his 70s, he's tireless in his efforts.

He was recognized on September 23 in Washington DC, when congresswoman Jackie Speier presented a Congressional Record certificate to the Flying Tiger Historical Organization to honor the heroics of the "former soldiers, under the direction of General Claire Chennault, who formed the First American Volunteer Group

of the Chinese Air Force 12 days after Pearl Harbor."

"Thanks to the help of my congressional friends who made the award possible, we got the opportunity to talk with congressmen and senators about the Flying Tiger. I'm very happy that they are very interested and supportive," he said.

Bianco has visited almost all the families of former Flying Tigers pilots to persuade them to donate items such as uniforms, patches and photos. "It is such a pity that when you search for Flying Tiger items online, you find some real patches sold for just 50 dollars. They should be collected in a memorial museum for better preservation," he said.

A longtime China supporter

Bianco's connection with China runs deeper than the Flying Tigers preservation. He has more than 40 years of experience doing business with China and has pioneered several cross-border financial transactions involving debt and equity instruments.

He is chairman of American Capital Markets Group, whose main priority is to help Chinese and foreign companies raise capital and expand their businesses using both public and private funding.

Recently, Bianco met with the top leaders of General Motors in China. "Their business is expand-

ing very nicely in China and they will have a public offering very soon, so we're helping them bring in investors," he said.

Bianco developed his fascination in China from his mother, who told him stories about friendly Chinese laundromat owners in New York who gave her candy when she was young.

"My mother's great gift to me was giving me the desire to go to China," Bianco said.

After training in New York and Tokyo, Bianco was working in Taiwan with Chase Bank when the US and China established diplomatic ties in 1979. "Because I had very good relations in Taiwan,

in 1979 I started doing export finance from Taiwan to the mainland," he said. "Nobody could do this before."

His early contributions were recognized by Soong Ching-ling, chairperson of the National People's Congress and wife of Sun Yat-sen, the first president of China.

"In 1979, Madame Soong invited me to her house for a private talk and dinner, which was my first time in the capital," Bianco said.

"Madam Soong Ching-ling was very gracious to me. We had a long discussion. She introduced me to the minister



Michael F. Bianco

Photo by Xie Fei

of finance and the minister of commerce as well as many officials. And we had very constructive discussions about how to foster relations between the two countries."

Aside from Bianco's contributions in finance and business, he plans to open incubators to offer advisory support to China's university students who want to start their own business.

"We are also helping a major Chinese real estate company in New York City build a China Cultural Center to showcase Chinese culture through music, fine arts and language," he said. The center should be open

within a year.

A *Touch of Beijing*, a travel documentary made by Bianco's film company, was broadcast nationwide via the PBS network to more than 200 TV stations in the US.

In 2009, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of US-China diplomatic relations, Bianco received a prestigious award from the US and China Foundation at the Lincoln Center in New York City that recognizes special contributions to US-China relations.

Promoting relations is something Bianco has done his entire life, with work yet to be done.

Students look to France for education in luxury

By Han Manman

Luxury management, wine and finance have become popular majors for Chinese students studying in France in the past two years, according to Group INSEEC, a top French education group that owns eight schools in five cities in France.

INSEEC, which just acquired the International University of Monaco, is developing its activities in the promising Chinese market. Shi Lei, chief representative of INSEEC Group in China, said INSEEC will reinforce its recruitment strategy in China by opening regional offices in Shanghai and Beijing next year.

More than 400 Chinese students enrolled in INSEEC's Bachelor's, Master's and MBA programs this year, Shi said.

"We've found a very interesting phenomenon of more Chinese students choosing to

study luxury management and wine," Shi said. "Many people say China does not have luxury brands, but the Chinese have the consumptive power to buy luxury brands."

She said because of the country's rapid economic development and skyrocketing living standards, Chinese aesthetic standards have changed, as has the perception of luxury items.

Since the luxury market is still in its nascent stages, some Chinese students are choosing to study luxury management to someday build their own brands.

Some students are already on their way to realizing their ambition, Shi said. One Chinese student created a luxury brand of baby products in Shanghai after graduating.

Wine too has become popular in China. Shi said many Chinese students, unlike their counterparts from other countries, have

little knowledge of wine before enrolling. Very few schools in China are able to provide a systematic wine education.

"With more students taking their knowledge of luxury management and wine back to China, it will drive the high-end industry's development there," Shi said.

This sentiment was echoed by Alain-James Palisse, project officer for higher education cooperation at the French embassy in China. He said majors like wine and luxury management are in strong demand.

Palisse said the Chinese prefer to study in France because of the country's good reputation for teaching in its centuries-old institutions, while maintaining lower tuition fees compared with other Western countries.

Palisse said approximately 10,000 Chinese students have gone to study in France in the

past year. Among those students, around 40 percent went to a graduate-level business-related course.

"This number has remained stable for several years now, as France decided to really emphasize quality over quantity," Palisse said. "A successful experience for our Chinese students is our first concern, and we look forward to promoting excellence over sheer numbers."

More French students are choosing to study in China as well. Palisse said there are between 5,500 and 6,000 French students currently studying in China.

"They are mostly interested in learning Chinese, as your language is viewed as one of the most promising and useful ones for the decades to come," he said, adding that more French students are willing to remain in China to look for a job and make use of what they've learned.

DCCC to celebrate charity project in Sichuan

By Zhao Hongyi

After two years of waiting, the kids of the Danish Chamber Universal Love Kindergarten in Ziqiang Town, Zitong County of Mianyang Area, Sichuan Province, finally have a new two-story building to call home.

The original kindergarten was destroyed in the Wenchuan earthquake on May 12, 2008. The kids have had to stay in makeshift tents since.

"Fortunately, we received donations and assistance from the Danish Chamber of Commerce in China (DCCC), which collected and donated 600,000 yuan for the construction of our new building," said Wei Xiaoqing, governor of Ziqiang Town.

Local citizens have also praised the DCCC in online forums.

The Danish Chamber collected the money at its 2008 annual gala ball. In April 2009, the chamber contributed the money to the Red Cross of Mianyang.

The kids and staff of the kindergarten are busy preparing for the opening ceremony of the new house on November 20. A group of Danish contributors will visit the kindergarten and participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Our purpose is to have a look at the charity project we support," said Cathy Duan, a DCCC official in Beijing. The Danish chamber is one of the most dynamic business entities in China, with three offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The chamber has been involved in charity events and donations in China for the past decade. The annual gala ball has been a healthy source of donations for various charity projects around China.

"Every year, we donate around 1 million yuan to support charity projects in the remote western parts of China," Cathy said.

In 2008, DCCC supported the building of Sun Village, which provides vocational training for children ages 14 to 18 in Jiangxi Province whose parents are in prison.

In 2009, aside from the kindergarten in Ziqiang Town, DCCC also donated to the restoration of traditional buildings in Liancun Town in Xincui County, Henan Province.

Celebrating Day of the Dead to commemorate national art icon

By Liang Meilan

The Day of the Dead, November 2, is a national holiday in Mexico. It is a time for gathering at altars to remember deceased loved ones and honoring them with flowers, candles, pictures and traditional food and beverages. This year, the Mexican embassy will dedicate its Day of the Dead observance to the extraordinary artist Frida Kahlo (1907-54), an icon of Mexican culture. Her works are free to view at the embassy until November 5.

Photo provided by Mexico Embassy



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钟表双子特刊

Cooee brings together town's Aussies

By Liang Meilan

There are plenty of organizations for Australian expats in town, but it remains a mystery exactly how many Aussies there are.

A recent community-driven project called "cooee," launched by the Australian Chamber of Commerce (AusCham), seeks to answer that question.

There are about 1,300 Australians registered with the embassy, "but I don't think that reflects the truth," said Garth Wilson, business and membership manager of AusCham and the cooee project director. "I think the number might be around 3,000, which includes tourists and students."

The project features a social networking website (projectcooee.com) where Aussies can fill out a survey.

Questions include which state in Australia the respondents come from, and in which Beijing area he or she resides. The site also encourages people to upload photos of themselves. "But it is not necessary to divulge any personal information in the survey," Wilson said.

People who give their email address will be entered in a drawing to win free stays at various hotels in town and His & Hers RM Williams boots.

A short video art film called *My Island Home*, produced by



Australian ambassador Jeff Raby (left) and guests at the 2010 AustCham Annual Ball

Photo provided by AustCham

the Bag Ladies, features Australian expats holding items that are special to them on the streets of Beijing.

Among well-known Australian communities in town are the Austrian China Alumni Association, Australian New Zealand Association and New Zealand Association, yet none of them have done a project like cooee before.

"We're doing this to help bring together people and make lives easier," Wilson said.

AusCham has 250 member companies, mostly in mining and education. The group attaches much importance to social networking events, both for daily life and business.

In addition, there are several upcoming events, including the annual Melbourne Cup horse racing next Tuesday.

And "on November 20, the town will witness a real horse race we organized in Shunyi District, coinciding with a Great Aussie Barbe-

cue open to 500 people," said Dalwyn Bateson, general manager of AusCham.

There will also be a cricket match between teams from the Australian and British embassies later this year. The two countries' ambassadors will participate in the match.

At the cricket event, Guoan soccer players Ryan and Joel Griffiths will lead a clinic, and a rugby clinic will be offered by players from the Beijing Red Devils.

Fitness challenge contestants share experiences at Zeta bar

The World Health Store (WHS) began its first 12 Week Challenge in July, asking 50 contestants to improve their bodies through self-control, exercise and diet. The winners were announced on October 15 at Zeta Bar in Hilton Hotel.

Ten finalists showed off their new physiques at Zeta Bar. The majority of the male contestants had made improvements in muscle size and tone; female contestants all made excellent progress in tone, fat loss and energy.

About 100,000 yuan worth of prizes were handed out.

The female winner was Dorothy Cronin, 24, an English teacher from the US. She went into the challenge wanting to lose 15 kilograms and ended up losing 16 kilograms and 22 inches off her waist.

Cronin said her advice to future contestants is to always stay positive.

Creativity played a big part

in winning the hearts of the audience and judge. One finalist, Tony Nicholson, 24, a personal trainer and rugby coach from the UK, made an entertaining video diary of the 12 weeks. This documented his progress and helped him win "best transformation" among men and also "best overall transformation."

Another finalist, Tammy Doran, 44, mother of two children, didn't enter the challenge to lose weight, as she already had a good body. Her goal was to get stronger.

She was proud showing off her newly toned body in front of hundreds of people.

"Many thanks to WHS for inspiring me through these past 12 weeks. I can't recall the last time I felt that confident," Doran said.

Other finalists gave these tips: have some friends who share your goals so you can push one another, and get professional help and guid-



World Health Store's 12-week challenge final party at Hilton Hotel

Photo provided by Ivy Leung

ance when necessary.

Daniel Makoski, 35, a business executive and a father of two, another finalist, managed to balance a stressful workload with a healthy lifestyle and family life by developing a program that his children could do with him. Makoski said that through the process, he was able to enjoy quality time

with his family and also instill healthy habits in them.

"The best thing about this challenge is not the prizes, it's the experience, knowledge and confidence these contestants gained from pushing their true limits to find their perfect self," said Ivy Leung, event and marketing director of WHS. (By Annie Wei)

Event

TEDxBEIJING 2010: Uncovering Innovation

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, the second annual conference takes place on November 13 with a theme of Uncovering Innovation. It will be a one-day exploration of how innovation in all its forms and across disciplines is happening in this city. A total of 200 spots are reserved for audience members, while thousands more will join from across the country via satellite. Applications for the event are open until October 30.

Website: tedxbeijing.com

When: Until October 30

Day of the Dead Altar at the Mexican Embassy

The Chinese have Tomb-Sweeping Day; Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead. It is a day not so much for mourning but for celebration and for taking death in stride with humor and irony. On the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, the Embassy of Mexico will dedicate its Day of the Dead altar to painter Frida Kahlo.

Where: Mexican Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dong Jie, Chaoyang District

When: October 25 - November 5, Monday to Friday, 9 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6532 2070

Cost: Free

Eco farming experience at Phoenix Hills Commune

Phoenix Hills Commune is the first biodynamic agricultural commune in China. It is located inside the Beijing Phoenix Hill Nature Park, which is 15 kilometers from the city. China Sustainable Travel Network is organizing trips into the commune. Take the chance to experience organic farming and learn Chen-form tai chi from a tai chi master.

Where: Phoenix Hills Commune, 19 Fenghuangshan Lu, Haidian District

When: Ends December 26, every Saturday and Sunday, 8 am - 6 pm

Tel: 13621200844

Cost: 500 yuan

Documentary film event: Beijing - a changing city

The Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center (CHP) is holding a special international documentary event reflecting on Beijing's many changes. Two English short documentaries will be shown: *Cycle of Change - Beijing My Old Home* and *New Beijing - Reinventing a City*. The films will be followed by a discussion on the implications of development in Beijing and cultural heritage protection in China. This discussion will be in Chinese only.

Where: Studio-X Beijing, Room A103, 46, Fangjia Hutong, Andingmennei Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 30, 2-5 pm

Tel: 6403 6532

Cost: 15 yuan pre-purchase, 20 yuan at the door; free for CHP members

(By Liang Meilan)

20 hospitals approved for organ transplant surgery



Organ transplant surgeries have increased rapidly in China.

CFP Photo

By Chu Meng

Previously forbidden organ transplant surgeries for foreigners in China have been approved in 20 state-owned hospitals in Beijing.

The 20 Beijing hospitals are part of 163 state-owned hospitals across China that have been sanctioned to carry out organ transplant surgery for foreign recipients, the Ministry of Health announced on its website, moh.gov.cn, on Monday.

The announcement said that transplant surgeries for the heart, liver, kidney and lung are permissible. It reiterated that non-approved hospitals, clinics and foreign-invested medical institutions are not allowed to carry out organ transplants without express permission from the ministry.

The list of approved hospitals includes Beijing Anzhen Hospital for

cardiac and lung transplants, the China-Japan Friendship Hospital for liver, kidney and lung transplants, the Beijing Union Medical College Hospital and the General Hospital of the Chinese People's Armed Police Forces for liver and kidney transplants.

"Organ transplant surgeries for foreign patients are only allowed in China if both the donor and the recipient are foreign," said Gao Ge, head nurse from the International Medical Center of the General Hospital of the Chinese People's Armed Police Forces – one of the first state-owned hospitals open to foreign patients.

The reason for this is because "the organ donation pool is far from big enough for Chinese citizens."

Gao said there is big demand from foreign patients. Some are from countries that do not conduct organ

transplant surgeries. Others are from developed countries that charge up to 10 times as much as Chinese hospitals.

"The ministry posted the notice not only to inform citizens about authorized hospitals but also to restrict the illegal organ trade and illegal surgeries in the city," said Ma Yanming, Beijing Municipal Bureau's press official.

Statistics from the Chinese Medical Association show that about 15 million people in China are on the waiting list for an organ transplant. Each year, only about 10,000 of them are able to get the surgery they need.

The organ transplant industry is relatively new in the country and such operations were rarely carried out before 2001. The number increased rapidly in the following years. By the end of 2005, more than 40,000 surgeries had been carried out nationwide.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:
weiyang@ynet.com

As Halloween is coming, I'd like to know about interesting parties in town. Can you introduce some popular free events for adults and kids?

Here are some of interest:

Halloween night in a temple

Participants with creative costumes will be entitled to free drinks and cocktails. Dress spookily, as in the style of Qing eunuchs, in a 600-year-old temple.

Where: Contempio Temple Bar, Doufuchi Hutong, Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng District

When: October 30, 10 pm – 2 am

Tel: 6407 6778

Halloween film party at Zen Foto

Alejandro Nuez Borja's films will have you sitting on the edge of your seat and clutching your friend's hand. Borja uses a mix of sharp, colorful imagery and jarring audio to leave you uncomfortably craving more.

Where: Zen Foto, 31 Gongyixiang, Guozhijian, Dongcheng District

When: 7 pm – 1 am

Do you know where I can buy a fire extinguisher to keep in my apartment?

Actually, fire extinguishers are available in many hardware stores. But if you want one of high quality, you should find suppliers approved by the Municipal Fire Protection Association. Check out the Beijing Fire Fighting Equipment Distribution Center, which offers all sorts of firefighting equipment. Call them at 8774 1219. They also offer home installation.

I was thinking about doing aikido, but I have no idea if there is a class taught by an English-speaking instructor.

Check out Beijing Aikido (beijingaikido.com), which teaches the principles and techniques of the art's founder, Morihei Ueshiba. Classes are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 to 7 pm and on Saturdays from 2 to 3 pm. Classes are led by William Gillespie, a Japan-trained aikido instructor who speaks English. Gillespie is a fifth-degree black belt who started studying aikido in 1987 in the US before moving to Japan for intensive training at the Aikikai World Headquarters.

(By Liang Meilan)

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Tales of the Bund

By He Jianwei

The Bund, located on the western bank of the Huangpu River, is the epitome of modern Chinese history, a museum of Western architecture and the icon of Shanghai.

One Chinese filmmaker decided to make a documentary about how the area developed from a mud bank into one of the most flourishing business ports and financial centers of the world.

But since its premiere on October 18 at Broadway Cinematheque, the film has been criticized for its edgy style. The director uses actors to play historical figures and personify the Bund.

Zhou Bing's documentary opens with Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9. The classical piece, also known as "From the New World," fits unusually well with the vision of the Bund presented by Zhou in *The Bund 1843-1945: A Legend of Urban Civilization*.

For Zhou, the Bund is the new world where people live on their lust for money, power, love and dreams. As the director of two critically acclaimed TV documentaries, *The Forbidden City* and *Dunhuang*, Zhou has been famous for his neutral attitude toward historical figures and events. Many viewers had high expectations for his latest endeavor.

"In different times, we have different views of historical people and events. I tried to abandon my stereotypes and prejudices to discover the essence of this city," Zhou said.

Instead of following the historical timeline of the Bund, Zhou selects five persons and their experiences in this city, tracing its history from the British concession in 1843 to the Japanese surrender in 1945.

The director begins the story with a typical expat of the newly-opened port: Sir Robert Hart.

Hart was the inspector general of China's Imperial Maritime Customs Service (IMCS) from 1863 to 1908. He arrived in China in 1854 as a British consular official, playing a key role in China's 19th century history and its foreign relations with the West. He built the first modern institution in China, the IMCS, played a crucial role in China's imperial politics and significantly influenced its internal reform and diplomatic policy.

One of his duties was collecting customs duties from the Chinese government. His advice directly led to the improvement of China's port and navigation facilities.

Zhou treats Hart as a diplomat rather than an invader. "Eliminating corruption, improving efficiency and establishing credibility were three major contributions that Hart made to China at that time. The IMCS was the most honest department in the twilight of the Qing Dynasty (1633-1911)," he said.

Hart was both an expatriate and a Chinese official, but he masterfully balanced these identities without forgetting he was British.

"All the actor's lines in the film can be found in historical records. Only one scene in Hart's part was made up, because Hart burned several diaries related to his love," Zhou said.

The second figure is Ye Chengzhong, one of the first Chinese business tycoons who started a business selling hardware to the British merchant fleet.

"Ye was the first in a group of people who rushed from Ningbo, Zhejiang Province to Shanghai to seek their fortune," Zhou said.

Economic decline in Ningbo drove Ye to become an apprentice to a grocer in Shanghai's French Concession, where he began making deliveries on the Huangpu River using his employer's sampan in 1853. His honesty and loyalty helped him to raise enough money to open his first store with the help of his boss.

In the following 40 years, Ye developed one of China's biggest businesses and used his stores as wholesal-

ers and retailers to distribute Standard Oil's kerosene.

The third figure in this film is the controversial Shanghai gangster leader Du Yuesheng, the chief of the Green Gang who managed the port's Mafia-like enterprises, including gambling dens, warehouses and opium dens.

Du was a key supporter of the Kuomintang and Chiang Kai-shek in the Shanghai massacre of 1927, an oppression of the progressive labor movement.

"Du represented the outrageous, brash, lawless, thrusting world that was Old Shanghai in the 1920s to 1940s," Zhou said.

In Zhou's film, Du struggles between political powers and is a patriot, putting his considerable resources and power into the fight against the Japanese in the 1930s and 1940s.

"Du is an interesting person. Like the city itself, it is difficult to judge whether he's good or evil. I appreciate the director's approach to this character - to restore what he thought when he made a decision," said Chin Shih-jie, the veteran Taiwanese actor who plays Du in the film.

Unlike other gangsters, Du always wore a Chinese silk gown as a symbol of his aspirations for a place in traditional high society. In Zhou's film, Du has a reoccurring nightmare where he is seen wearing a military jacket over the top half of his gown.

The other two characters in the documentary are starlets of the 1930s and 1940s: Chinese singer and actress Zhou Xuan and Chinese-born Japanese singer and actress Yamaguchi Yoshiko.

Nicknamed "Golden Voice," Zhou was the best-selling singer of the gramophone era, singing many songs from her movies. But she still was a poor child who never found her birth mother.

"A sense of insecurity and homelessness is still found in today's Shanghai and other big cities, so she is included in my film," the director said.

Yoshiko was a typical character of Japanese-controlled Shanghai. She adopted the Chinese stage name Li Xianglan, proposed by a Manchurian film company. The company sought a future star born in Manchuria who would appeal to both Japanese and Chinese viewers.

At the end of World War II, she was arrested by the Chinese government for treason and filming for Japanese companies. She was set free eventually, because she was not a Chinese national.

"The struggles of Li show how people can be torn due to the identity issues that many Shanghaiese experience," Zhou said.

A narrator, the Bund itself, connects the stories of all five characters.

"Some criticize my approach of using personification. We made a longer five-episode TV version of this document that includes more actual footage from 1843 to the present. It will be a traditional documentary that does not use actors for the characters or personal narration," Zhou said. "This film version is just my experience."

"The Bund's history is not a story of the Bund itself, but a history of its citizens' feelings and fates," he said.

That history continues to this day.

"In different times, we have different views of historical people and events. I tried to abandon my stereotypes and prejudices to discover the essence of this city."

"The Bund's history is not a story of the Bund itself, but a history of its citizens' feelings and fates."

Filmmaker's new experim

4.



2.



3.



ent in documentary



1. Du Yuesheng, the controversial gangster leader, represented the outrageous Old Shanghai in the 1920s and 1940s.
2. Sir Robert Hart, the inspector general of China's Imperial Maritime Custom Service, influenced China's internal reform and diplomatic policy in the late 19th century.
3. Zhou Xuan, the bestselling singer, had a sense of insecurity in Shanghai in the 1930s and 1940s.
4. Chinese-born Japanese singer and actress Yamaguchi Yoshiko was confused about her identity in Japanese-controlled Shanghai in the 1930s and 1940s.

Photos provided by Zhou Bing

Social maladies inspire French writer

By He Jianwei

Contemporary French writers like Blainde Le Callet still echo the ideals of the 18th century Enlightenment, a time of rational criticism.

"Writers in 18th century used their work to fight imperial domination. Today, we continue their critical observations of society," she said.

For most people, a wedding is cause for celebration. But the protagonists of her novel, *Une Piece Montee (The Wedding Cake)*, are unhappy and anxious.

Among them is Pauline, the bride's naive little niece who uncovers injustice and cruelty; the priest, exhausted by the two weddings he already performed that day; Vincent, the groom whose ex-fiancee reappears after six years to tempt him with her beauty; and the bride's sister, the last unmarried member of the family left to endure scathing comments about her eccentric way of life.

"A writer is an observer of society. It's not so much a scientific observation, but a sensitive one that digs out every social malady from under the surface," she said.

Despite her determination to become a writer at the early age of nine, it wasn't until she turned 35 that Le Callet finished her first novel.

"I was not confident of my writing in my youth and I always left it unfinished," she said. "When I was 35, I realized that if I didn't finish a book, my dream would not come true."

Le Callet, now 41, published her second novel, *La Ballade de Lila K (The Ballad of Lila K)*, in French this September. In it she imagines a comfortable and secure society of the future, but one in which everything is monitored by the government.

The novel follows the story of Lila K, a young woman who is brutally snatched from her mother by men in black to be sent to a prison-like boarding school.

Gifted, asocial and traumatized, Lila has forgotten her former life. She tries to find her mother and recapture her lost memories. In the school, she has two educators – an erudite and provocative schoolmaster who advocates teaching according to a student's ability and a conventional teacher that insists students must obey the rules and regulations.

"The school is a micro-society. I tried to examine a basic question of human life: how do we obey the rules and regulations of society yet keep our personality?" Le Callet said last Friday at One Way Street Bookstore.

The society she depicts after Lila's graduation is a wonderful world. While safety seems guaranteed, books are no longer allowed.

"I tried to imagine what a Western country will look like in the future. Today, security is a vital concern, so I imagined a country taking its duty to guarantee security to the extreme in the fields of health, food and the environment. Crime does not exist," she said. "But the cost of this is individuality and freedom."

The British writers George Orwell and Aldous Huxley come quickly to mind as her inspirations.

Orwell's legendary dystopian novel *1984* features a similar totalitarian society, where the individual is subordinate to the state and the public mind is controlled. Huxley's *Brave New World* anticipates new developments in reproductive technology.

"I used their works as a reference."

In Lila's world, books are not allowed, and when people get old they are injected

with a compound to restore their youth," Le Callet said.

Le Callet takes seriously the writer's social responsibility. She continues to draw inspiration from the French government's disastrous attempts to reform its healthcare and pension systems.

"More than 70 percent of France believes the government's policy [to raise the retirement age] will be disadvantageous to the lowest workers, who are already victims of the ailing pension system," she said.

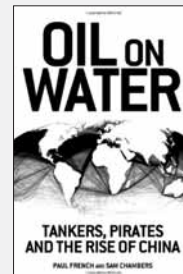
"The darkness of my book comes from what I witness in our reality."

© David Balicki



Bookworm book listing

Vivian Wang from the Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.



Oil on Water: Tankers, Pirates and the Rise of China

By Paul French and Sam Chambers, 224pp, Zed Books, \$29.95

The uninterrupted flow of oil is essential to globalization and increasingly so as manufacturing and markets move to Asia. However, it is threatened by conflicts between nation states, pirates and global warming. All too often the movement of oil by ocean is something taken for granted by the majority of the world – yet it is a process fraught with difficulty that could hemorrhage global growth at any moment.



The King of Suburbia

By Iggy McGovern, 70pp, Dedalus Press, \$14.95

Iggy McGovern's collection of poetry won the inaugural Glen Dimplex New Writers Award for Poetry in 2006. Many of the poems are about being a son and about being a father, and how sons become fathers themselves.



The Book of Change

By Eileen Chang, 288pp, University of Washington Press, \$14.95

This previously unpublished semi-autobiographical novel continues the story begun in *The Fall of the Pagoda*, following the author's experiences as a student at the University of Victoria in Hong Kong, including the city's 1941 fall after Pearl Harbor. Hiding in shelter to escape air raids, she vividly conveys her sense of alienation both as a sojourner in a distant land and as a displaced refugee of war.

(By He Jianwei)

Art born from oppression in Chile

By He Jianwei

Chile draws much unwanted international attention with its natural disasters – first the frequency of its earthquakes and now a copper-gold mining accident.

But the country's contemporary art is a topic quite unfamiliar to the news-watching public.

Copying Eden: Recent Art in Chile is an English and Spanish bilingual book edited by Gerardo Mosquera, a curator, critic and art historian in Havana, Cuba and co-founder of the Havana Biennial in 1984.

"We invited Mosquera to compile this book because he is a Latin American art critic and has curated many international exhibitions," said the publisher, Claudia Pertuze, last Saturday at Today Art Museum. "He was the assistant curator of the New Museum of Contemporary



Copying Eden: Recent Art in Chile
Edited by Gerardo Mosquera, 645pp, Copying Eden, 400 yuan

Art in New York. Now he is the adviser of the Academy of Fine Arts of the State of Holland."

In 645 vibrant pages, the book reproduces more than 500 works by 74 artists, many of whom are renowned figures in painting, installation, sculpture and video.

The book presents and analyzes the evolution of contemporary art in Chile from 1973 to 2006.

"It sounds weird that I place the start of Chilean contemporary art at the beginning of 1973," Mosquera said. "In this year, the mili-

tary coup overthrew president Salvador Allende, who was the only democratically elected Marxist in Chilean history. It was also the beginning of life under a military dictatorship."

During the next 17 years, General

Augusto Pinochet implemented many oppressive and violent policies. Many artists used their work to expose this oppression.

"When the political situation changed, so did the art and culture," Mosquera said.

Alfredo Jaar's project, "Studies on Happiness," created between 1979 and 1981 in Santiago, explored the limits of what could be said and done during the dictatorship. He posted signs around the city asking people to express their opinions about happiness and collected their opinions for an installation at a local museum.

After the dictatorship, Chile emerged with a stable economy and government, which put it in the crosshairs of globalization.

"Now artists discuss contemporary issues, such as advertisements, consumerism and globalization," he said.

This book includes essays on art in Chile and Latin America written by six critics and an appendix that reviews key texts on Chilean contemporary art written during the last 30 years, along with a complete bibliography of the period.

Mixing and matching your winter military look

By Wang Yu

Sound engineer Daniel Ma is tired of his routine winter outfit.

For the last several years, he defaulted to a double-breasted coat to keep out Beijing's cold. While it looked good and recalled the look of his favorite goth rock acts of the '70s like Joy Division, Ma thought it was time for a change.

Inspired by street photography, he decided to work on a mixed military look.

"I was stunned by this photo of an old man on a New York street. He was wearing an M-65 disruptive pattern blazer, a pair of black cotton pants and red Dr. Marten's boots with yellow bootstraps. You could tell he was a mess from his face, but his style was remarkable," Ma says.

It doesn't hurt that military coats are a great way to stay warm.

Ma is at the vanguard of this winter's fashion trend: military chic.

Heavy boots and military jackets have been in fashion for several years. This year they are strongly emphasizing shoulders and big buttons, and stylists are pairing them with military overalls and cargo pants, caps, boots and khakis.

"It's easy to find military items in the chain outlets of brands like Burberry Prorsum and Marc by Marc Jacobs. However, there are cheaper ways to catch up with the trend. Vintage clothing stores are a great place to shop for a military look," says Twiggy Song, Web editor of Cosmopolitan's Chinese edition.

In Beijing, the vintage clothing culture is thriving – due in no small amount to the efforts of rock stars who brought the look out of the underground. The most reputable vintage clothing shops are on East Gulou Avenue or near Dongsi and Wudaokou. Most have a good collection of military clothes.

The fishtail parka is a one classic that survives each fashion cycle. Its name comes from the long back of the coat that was originally tied around the waist by soldiers. It was first used by the US Army in 1951 to protect soldiers from the elements in the Korean War, during which it gained its more common name: the M-51 coat.

"The look is reminiscent of the '60s Mod trend in England when young people were wearing M-51 coats to keep the rain and dust off their expensive Italian suits. The design was a classic," Ma says. However, Ma settled on an N-3B coat for his purchase, the M-51's looser, thicker cousin.

"Taobao is a great place to find military clothes – sometimes you can even get stuff that has been worn by real soldiers. The only problem is the size – usually the uniforms are made big to fit soldiers. I also make trips to Tianjin, where you can find equally good products at a lower price," Ma says. Beijing's neighbor is known for its thriving vintage scene.

If khaki isn't your thing, try dark green matched with a lighter color. There is also gray, which is the color dominating Max Mara's 2010 collection. Its gray military jackets are based on the '80s swing-coated military look, but they may owe more of their inspiration to the Russian military.

"The pilot jacket is another important item which is perfect for men. When buying a leather jacket, I think the older the better. A brand new shining leather jacket is not cool. Time makes leather come alive," Song says.

For girls worried that military styles are not feminine enough, imagination and a few clever accessories can make a combat uniform work with high heels. Consider matching a military coat with dark, tight-fitting pants or a skirt.

Boots were born for pairing with the military look. Ankle and knee-high boots are in this year, especially black, patent leather ones with buckles. Those who are tall enough can tuck their dark jeans into their boots for an even better look.



Burberry Prorsum 2010 autumn and winter collection

CFP Photos



The homeless old man is inspirational for his style.



Marc by Marc Jacobs 2010 autumn and winter collection

The second V*tamin for seasonal fashion

By Zhang Dongya

Forty Sanlitun Village retailers sent their models down the runway at the second Style V*tamin Autumn/Winter 2010 Collection, a catwalk fashion show held on October 11.

The looks assembled the chic and casual styles of Village South retailers with the elegant looks of those in Village North. Participating brands included Esprit, Moïselle, Reiss, Folli Follie and the luxury brands Longchamp, Frey Willie and Dazzle.

The show, produced by fashion experts at the Beijing-based Tony Studio, included props and accessories supplied by local designers at Original Design Circle.

As part of this V*tamin's theme, "fairytale," the catwalk and costumes incorporated childlike elements like bowknots, bunny gloves and cartoon pictures.

Hairstyles were uniformly tight and glossy, which lent to easy matching with hats and other headwear like coronets.

For ladies' office wear, black and white mixed patterns were the top choice in most of the collections. Many attendees were impressed by the mixing of soft lace with lightweight feathers and flashy accessories.

"But camel, brown and some red suits are also popular this year," Qi Qi said. The must-have items for party girls this season are velvet and furs. An array of unique collar accessories can add more variety to an otherwise tedious winter wardrobe.

"Gentlemen will find it easy to keep with the trends this fall. There are a lot of stunning wool coats in bright colors that can keep you warm and help you stand out on Beijing's streets," she said.

Camel remains the most popular color for men's wear, and knits and scarves are ubiquitous.

Mixing and matching is as essential this winter as it was last. Try something wild like a cape for a more princely winter look. You could also combine a business suit with Dr. Marten's for something sharp and distinctive. British-style vests and knee-high boots also come highly recommended.

Some outdoor and sports retailers adopt much lighter materials for the winter months compared to the thick and heavy clothes in the past.

V*tamin debuted at Sanlitun Village last year to show off the newest trends in modern fashion. Its name was a play on the idea of offering a "daily dose of style."



Photo provided by Sanlitun Village.

European vintage home furniture arrives

By Annie Wei

Vintage is in, with stores selling vintage everything from clothes to cosmetics.

Casa Pagoda, at the former location of Pink Loft, brings European vintage, including painted furniture, French antique furniture and home accessories.

The white, cream and taupe of French antique furniture conjures images of classic movies.

The first floor mainly carries home accessories, like colorful pillars starting at 149 yuan and candleholders starting at 99 yuan. Products are made in Europe and Southeast Asia.

The second and third floors are home to bigger pieces. Living room and dining room displays are also here. One can find elephant ornaments (749 yuan), wood floor lamps (1,990 yuan) and side tables (2,900 yuan) on the third floor. Colorful sofas – green, light pink and scarlet – are also popular.

Compared to stores with designer collections, products here are more affordable. One can find a red Burgundi leather sofa chair (7,900 yuan), chandeliers (3,000-5,000 yuan) and bathroom products like colorful soda bottles (890 yuan for small size, 1,200 yuan for large) at affordable prices.

Casa Pagoda is a vintage living home furniture store owned by a designer from New York and some Europeans. The first store was opened in Bangkok six years ago, with one following in Shanghai soon after.

The owners have never lived in Beijing, but they believe their products are suitable anywhere.

Casa Pagoda

Where: 6 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 8 pm
Website: casapagoda.com
Tel: 6591 5922



Pop water bottle, 890 yuan



French off-white mirror, 4,500 yuan



Chandelier, starting from 2,500 yuan



French arm chair, 9,999 yuan



Dining table, 9,900 yuan; chair, 3,500 yuan each



Closet, 16,900 yuan



Home accessories, starting from 99 yuan



Wood wardrobe, 12,900 yuan
Photos by Yang Yidong

Reviving Qiang embroidery and Chinese luxury

By He Jianwei

Accompanied by drumbeats and Chinese ethnic music, models wearing special embroidery strutted around a diagram of an ancient Chinese calendar on Monday at Beijing Hotel's Golden Hall to open China Fashion Week.

For the ninth straight year, NE•TIGER, China's leading luxury brand, put on the opening show.

The 2011 Collection builds on previous seasons' themes of blending ancient and modern, Chinese and Western. This year's theme is "Tiangang-Dizhi (Heavenly Stems and Earthly Branches)."

Tiangang Dizhi was a system for recording the years, months, days and hours in ancient China. Ten heavenly stems are paired with 12 earthly branches to form

60 basic units. An animal is used to represent each earthly branch, forming what is known throughout the world as the Chinese Zodiac.

"In this ancient Chinese calendar, time is eternally in a cycle of change – it has neither a beginning nor an end," said Zhang Zhifeng, founder and chief designer of NE•TIGER. "The stem-branch combination represents the calendar year, and the Zodiac implies the birth of a year. It also implies the utmost state of harmony between humans and nature."

The show takes inspiration from the Zodiac, as Zodiac animals or seal characters are embroidered onto the clothing.

The collection's inspiration was also drawn from the Qiang, an ethnic minority that has 6,000 years of history. The Qiang

have been embroidering for a thousand years, and through time has developed a unique artistic style. "Its stitching styles, color matching and pattern composition are expressed in NE•TIGER's Hua Fu, creating a classic Chinese-style luxury," Zhang said.

Zhang and his team have devoted themselves to bridging the ancient and modern using fashion.

"I hope we can improve the development of China's emerging luxury industry and create luxury brands that truly belong to China," Zhang said.

Beijing Image Store

Where: AA31, New Oriental Plaza, 1, Dongchang'an Jie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 8518 6397

Cost: Minimum 20,000 yuan for custom-made clothing



NE•TIGER fashion show focuses on ethnic Qiang embroidery.

Photos provided by NE•TIGER

Restaurants in Wangfujing that cater to locals

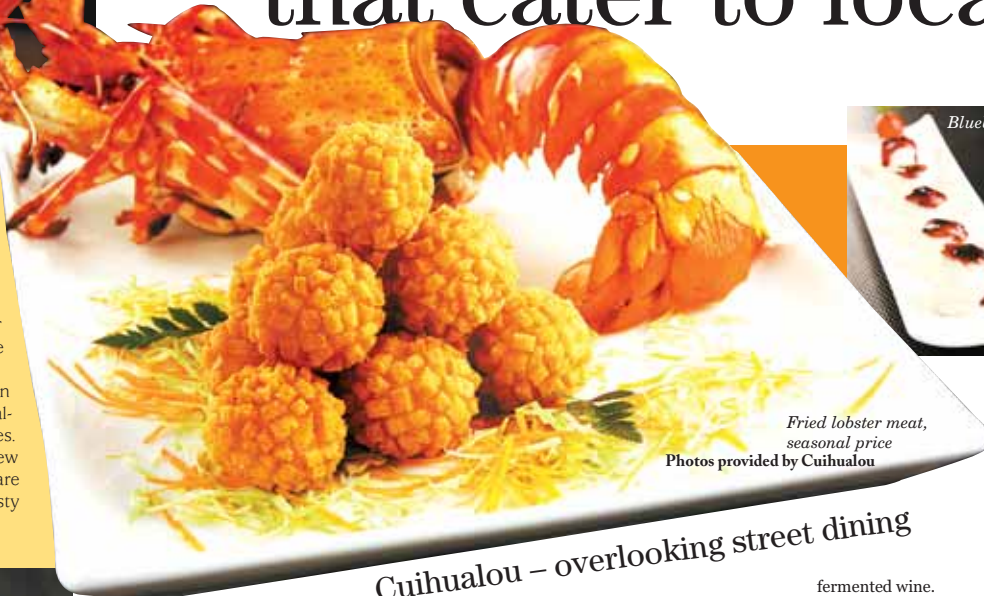


Fried prawn balls,
258 yuan

By Annie Wei

Popular restaurants on Wangfujing draw thousands of tourists every day, making it easy for them to coast on their reputation and overcharge customers.

But there are hidden gems, too, that offer quality fare at reasonable prices. *Beijing Today* found a few that serve locals and are blissfully devoid of touristy overeager picture-takers.



Blueberry yam,
26 yuan

Fried lobster meat,
seasonal price

Photos provided by Cuihualou

Cuihualou – overlooking street dining

The snack street at Donghuanmen has been well known for decades. Its reputation draws thousands of tourists every night. Most people enjoy its vibes but secretly wish for a better environment to enjoy the food.

Behind these vendors is a restaurant called Cuihualou, next to Tongrentang Chinese Traditional Medicine Store. This place has served fine Shandong food since 1940.

The chefs and waiters were originally from a different Shandong restaurant in town. The name Cuihualou means “gather-

ing the best of Shandong cuisine in one place.”

Since Shandong Province has a wide coastline and is also divided by the Yellow River, Shandong cuisine is rich in seafood and fish.

One of the most famous Shandong dishes is hui wuyudan (15 yuan per person), braised mullet egg. The eggs are from the black mullet's soft white glands; they are sliced into thin curls and cooked in a clear pork bone stock. It's then thickened with mung bean flour and seasoned with black pepper.

Other good dishes include congshao haishen (338 yuan for 10 braised sea cucumber) with fragrant scallions.

Huangheyu (68 yuan for bass and 128 yuan for 500 grams of mandarin fish), Yellow River carp, is also a signature Shandong dish. The fish is skillfully cut so it blooms like a flower when deep-fried. It is crispy on the outside and tender on the inside and smothered with sweet and sour sauce. Also recommended is zaoliu sanbai (58 yuan), fish, chicken and bamboo shoots braised in a sauce made from

fermented wine.

We also recommend jili xiaqiu (fried prawn balls) (258 yuan) and zhaxiarou (fried lobster meat) (seasonal price).

Cuihualou attracted many big-name customers when it opened 70 years ago, including Chiang Kai-shek, Soong May-ling and artist Xu Beihong.

Cui Hua Lou

Where: 19 Dong'anmen Dajie, Wangfujing

Open: Last order should be placed by 8:30 pm

Average price per person: Starting from 150 yuan, 10 to 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 6525 4581 / 6513 4970



Braised mullet egg, 15 yuan

Minfujia – humble prices, traditional décor



Beijing snack platter, 32 yuan

A 10-minute walk from Oriental Plaza is a three-story building in the style of traditional Chinese architecture. The restaurant is Minfujia, located just off Wangfujing Avenue, which makes it sufficiently tucked away to keep it out of most guidebooks.

The restaurant serves Beijing food, including Peking duck (108 yuan or 128 yuan for different ducks) and other home-style dishes.

Recommended: jingwei shao yangrou (46 yuan), Beijing-style roast lamb, where the lamb is marinated for three to four hours to absorb the flavors of herbs such as star anise, Chinese pepper, cumin, cinnamon and dried citrus peels.

The Beijing snack platter (36 yuan) features traditional desserts that are lightly sweetened and smooth, including wandouhuang, a gelatinous cake made from mashed peas, and shanzhao gao, haw jelly cake.

Others include ganzha wangzi (32 yuan),



Beijing duck,
108 yuan

deep-fried meatballs; suanluobo yu (42 yuan), fish boiled in sour radish soup; and Beile kaorou (38 yuan), Manchu-style roasted mutton.

The restaurant does not use MSG.

The place can fit no more than 20 people. Big groups can sit in the restaurant's central area with wood-carved screens around them.

Minfujia

Where: 32, Dengshikou Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10:30 am – 10:30 pm

Average price per person: 60 yuan

Tel: 6513 5141



Manchu-style roasted
mutton, 38 yuan

Beijing-style roast
lamb, 46 yuan

Photos provided by Minfujia



One can find well-established restaurant chains in this area, especially on the top floor of big department stores.

Donglaishun – hotpot

Donglaishun means “felicity comes from the East,” and has been known for its lamb hotpot since 1903. Quick-frying, roasting and instant-boiling are signature techniques.

Where: 5/F, AMP mall (next to Wangfujing Hilton), 138 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Average price per person: 60 to 100 yuan

Website:

donglaishun.com

Tel: 6528 0932

Yuxiang Renjia

This is a Sichuan restaurant established in 1998 in Beijing. The restaurant is good at making traditional dishes.

Where: 6/F, APM Mall, 138 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 2 pm,
5-9:30 pm

Average price per person: Starting from 50 yuan

Tel: 6528 0668

Discovering modern culture through ancient rituals

By He Jianwei

Rituals provide a reference for studying culture. With that in mind, choreographers from China and Australia will present a collaborative performance exploring the rituals of these two countries in a November 5-6 show at Beijing's PLA Theater.

First Ritual is a modern dance triptych, co-choreographed by BeijingDance/LDTX and Australia's Expressions Dance Company (EDC). The collaboration began last June, when artistic directors from the two compa-

nies met at the Busan International Dance Festival in South Korea.

"Both China and Australia boast about their ancient cultures. It's interesting that modern artists from these countries would take ancient rituals from the earliest human cultures and imbue them with modern interpretations and give them modern implications," said Willy Tsao, artistic director of BeijingDance/LDTX.

"The spirit of ritual becomes the recognition of self and society, of tradition and modernity, reality and illusion, body and spirit."

The show is divided into three parts. The EDC performs first, showing the relationship between rituals and Australian lives.

EDC artistic director Natalie Weir drew inspiration from the connection Australians have with their land. She uses the work of Australian photographers Max Dupain and Olive Cotton, who depict courtship, wed-

dings and funerals.

"Sand plays an important role in our lives – most of the rituals happen on the beach," Weir said. "There's a layer of sand in front of the stage, representing not only the beach but also the earth that raised Australians."

The deputy artistic director of BeijingDance/LDTX, Li Hanzhong, choreographs the second part, which is inspired by one of China's earliest ritualistic music and dance ceremonies, "Cloud Gate."

"In this ceremony, the complex contradictions between man and ritual are brought into focus. Are body and soul one, or are form and spirit separate?" Li said.

The third section is a performance co-choreographed by Tsao and Weir, who reflect on their unique traditional cultural heritages and together search for the universal essences that transcend time and space. They seek to find shared rituals for the modern era.

"We don't see what makes us different," Weir said, "but what makes us the same. We can use shared rituals to explore modern-day life."

First Ritual will also be presented next September at Australia's Brisbane Festival.



First Ritual

Where: PLA Theater, 60 Deshengmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
When: November 5-6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100 yuan, 60 yuan for students
Tel: 6613 1718

Photo provided by BeijingDance/LDTX

5 Friday, October 29

Movie La Vie En Rose (The Passionate Life of Edith Piaf, 2007)

This bio-pic of French chanteuse Edith Piaf traces her musical development from early childhood to her death in 1963. Piaf's singing reflected her life. The title of the film comes from one of her signature songs.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxituan, Haidian District
When: 7 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife Tamas Wells

Known for his angelic clear voice and simple lyrics, this Australian singer-songwriter based in Rangoon, Burma, released his latest album, *Thirty People Away*, earlier this year.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36

Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 120 yuan
advance purchase, 150 yuan at the door, 100 yuan for students
Tel: 5205 1112

Exhibition Wang Yuyang & Hu Xiangqian: Organisms

Wang employs sociological and artistic logic to explore human hopes for technology, a motif that permeates his entire body of work. In the video *Organisms*, Hu attempts to survive in the wilderness for 15 days using what he learned from a survival guidebook.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 12, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: 15 yuan, free on Thursday
Tel: 8459 9269

Sunday, October 31

Movie Madame (2009)

This film by Qiu Jiongiong is a documentary in

honor of his friend, Fan Qihui, who committed suicide. By day, Fan is an acclaimed costume designer who works hard for his customers; at night, he transforms into Madame Bilan De Linphel, singing sad songs in a bar.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798

Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7 pm
Admission: Free; book from frontdesk@ucca.org.cn
Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife Jazz Duet

French jazz guitarist Olivier Roussel teams up with drummer Frederic Pasqua for a unique duet.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

6 Saturday, October 30

Movie Crazy Stone (2006)

When a precious jade stone is discovered in an old outhouse, it attracts three groups of thieves: the developer wants to construct a new building in this area and hires a master thief from Hong Kong to steal the stone; the owner's son hatches a plan to get it; and three con-men are also after the jewel. The thieves discover that security guards aren't their only obstacle – they must deal with each other.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm
Admission: 40 yuan, 30 yuan for students

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

Nightlife Honig

The Dusseldorf-based indie folk trio plays in a style

similar to Radiohead.

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door

Tel: 5900 0969

Exhibition Latent Power – Guo Canyuan Solo Exhibition

At 18 years of age, this artistic prodigy is about to open his first solo exhibition. Guo started painting when he was 6, drawing skies, seas, flowers, birds and fish. He became interested in oil painting at the age of 9, with the full support of his parents.

Where: LDX Contemporary Art Center, Creative Art Center, Xiaopu Village, Songzhuang, Tongzhou District

When: Until November 18, daily except Monday, 10:30 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6959 7109

When: Until November 30, daily, 9 am – 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 8457 3506



Exhibition The Wild Wind – Chang Xiaojun Solo Exhibition

Buddhism plays a significant role in Chen's life and art. He blends his feelings and thoughts about the real world with representations of the spiritual world.

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Nightlife

Gaze Me and Timotai

In addition to performing folk music, Guo Zhiming also works with experimental and folk-rock bands such as Timotai. Gaze Me is one of Guo's folk projects.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: November 3, 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Stage in November

Concert

Vladimir and Vovka Ashkenazy Piano Duet

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 12, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Joe Hisaishi and China NCPA Concert Hall Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 14-15, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Li Yundi Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: November 12, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

France's Les Arts Florissants

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: November 25, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-880 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Dance

Dance and Love of Devotion

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 10-11, 7:30 pm
Admission: 60-160 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Contemporary Ballet Gala: Moving Rooms

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: November 19-20, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Gecko's The Overcoat

Where: Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: November 5-7, 7:30 pm
Admission: 40-300 yuan
Tel: 6524 6789

Tuesdays With Morrie

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District

When: November 12-14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-120 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

(By He Jianwei)

Overuse makes antibiotics lifesavers and killers

By Han Manman

It's common knowledge that antibiotics, used under the right circumstances, can be lifesavers. However, their misuse poses a serious danger to public health.

The new spread of "super bugs" throughout the world has put antibiotic abuse under the spotlight — especially in China, where the problem is rampant. It's worth taking a minute to learn what an antibiotic is and how it works so that you understand why your doctor may be hesitant to prescribe one.

Age of super bugs

China is among the world's most reckless users of antibiotics, with doctors prescribing them in combination to treat conditions as common as fevers, colds and sore throats. The overuse has contributed to a frightening increase in drug-resistant bacteria.

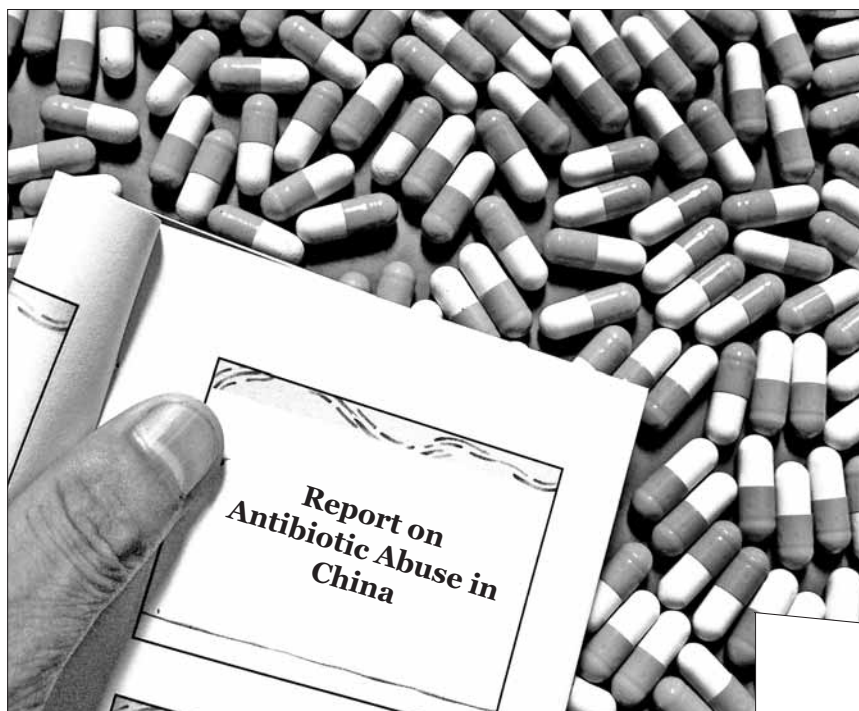
This has put every country in great danger of creating a super bug: one resistant to all the most powerful drugs, including antibiotics, said Yuan Zhong, an expert from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences.

In China, 45 percent of all bacteria are already drug-resistant: a percentage far greater than the international average, Yuan said.

Although antibiotics are supposedly prescription drugs, they are still widely available without prescription throughout the country.

The World Health Organization reported that 58 percent of Chinese patients used multiple antibiotics during a single course of medical treatment. The world average is 30 percent.

"People have been impressed by the ability of antibiotics to cure infectious diseases and started using them as a panacea," Yuan said.



Liu Junfeng/CFP Photo

Dangers of over-medication

Colds, sore throats and viruses are very common. However, it is wrong to expect each doctor visit to end with a prescription for an antibiotic.

"Patients dislike going home empty-handed. Some feel that while an antibiotic may not help their condition, it won't hurt, either," said Lu Yuan, deputy director at the institute of clinical pharmacology at Peking University.

But that is not the case.

Antibiotics only treat infections caused by bacteria. Taking them for colds and other viral illnesses not only is ineffective, but also helps to breed new bacteria that will be more challenging to kill.

Frequent and inappropriate use of antibiotics accelerates the evolution of bacteria, Lu said. The resistant bacteria require higher doses of medicine or stronger antibiotics to treat: some are already resistant to the most powerful antibiotics available today.

Lu said antibiotics also have other side effects, such as stomach pain, diarrhea and allergic reactions, as well as the potentially fatal skin condition

called Steven-Johnson syndrome.

While the antibiotics may kill the problem, they can also wipe out the intestinal flora that are essential to maintaining a healthy digestive tract and the manufacture of certain vitamins.

By killing off the necessary good bacteria, the bowels become exposed to difficult clostridium and yeast. The rapid increase in yeast infections is now being recognized as a significant consequence of exposure to antibiotics.

Antibiotics are only needed when a person is diagnosed with a bacterial infection, certain fungal infections and parasites. Strep throat, impetigo, persistent ear infections, bacterial skin infections, bacterial pneumonia and bladder infections warrant a course of antibiotics, she said.

Safe antibiotic use

Controlling the use of antibiotics is not just up to your doctor: it's also up to you. Here's how you can do your part to avoid contributing to antibiotic resistance:

- 1. Know when antibiotics should be used.** Don't expect to take antibiotics every time you're sick. If the healthcare provider says they're "not sure" or "don't know" but are prescribing the antibiotics "just in case," seek another opinion.
- 2. Don't pressure your doctor.** Talk with your doctor about ways to relieve the symptoms of your virus. You might consider a saline nasal spray to clear a stuffy nose or a mixture of warm water, lemon and honey to temporarily soothe a sore throat.
- 3. Take antibiotics exactly as prescribed.** Follow your doctor's instructions when taking medication. Don't stop treatment a few days early because you're feeling better. Taking the full course of antibiotics is the only way to kill all of the harmful bacteria. A short-ended course of antibiotics wipes out only the most vulnerable bacteria while allowing resistant bacteria to survive.
- 4. Never take antibiotics without**

a prescription. If you didn't complete a full course of antibiotics, you might be tempted to use the leftover medication the next time you get sick or to pass it along to someone else. This is a very bad idea. The antibiotic might not be appropriate for a future illness, and even if it is you are unlikely to have enough pills to wipe out all the germs making you sick, which will result in even more resistant bacteria.

5. Prevent the spread of germs. Good hygiene goes a long way in preventing infections. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, especially after using the toilet, changing a diaper or handling raw meat or poultry. Keep food preparation areas clean.

6. Antibiotics are included in many hand soaps. These are not necessary. Only use regular soap for general hand washing. Don't get in the habit of keeping antibiotic soaps around. Overexposure to the same antibiotics will allow bacteria an opportunity to build resistance to that antibiotic, rendering it useless. Bacteria are a normal part of our environment and there is no way we will eradicate them with hand soap.

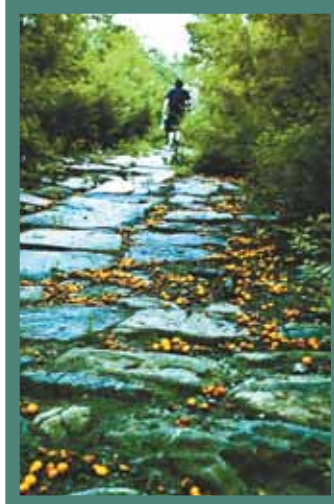
An ancient road to temples in Mentougou

By Zhang Dongya

It is difficult to say exactly how many preserved temples are in Beijing, but according to a Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) record, there were more than 1,300 temples extant during Emperor Qianlong's reign (1711-1799).

Several were built deep in the mountains, requiring arduous journeys to reach. In ancient times, some pious believers followed a painstaking ritual: for every step, a bow must be taken; or for every three steps, a full kowtow.

Roads were created that served people for centuries. They became known as *xiangdao*, literally "incense roads." While many of these roads have been closed, some still see visitors. *Beijing Today* would like to introduce readers to one such holy road.

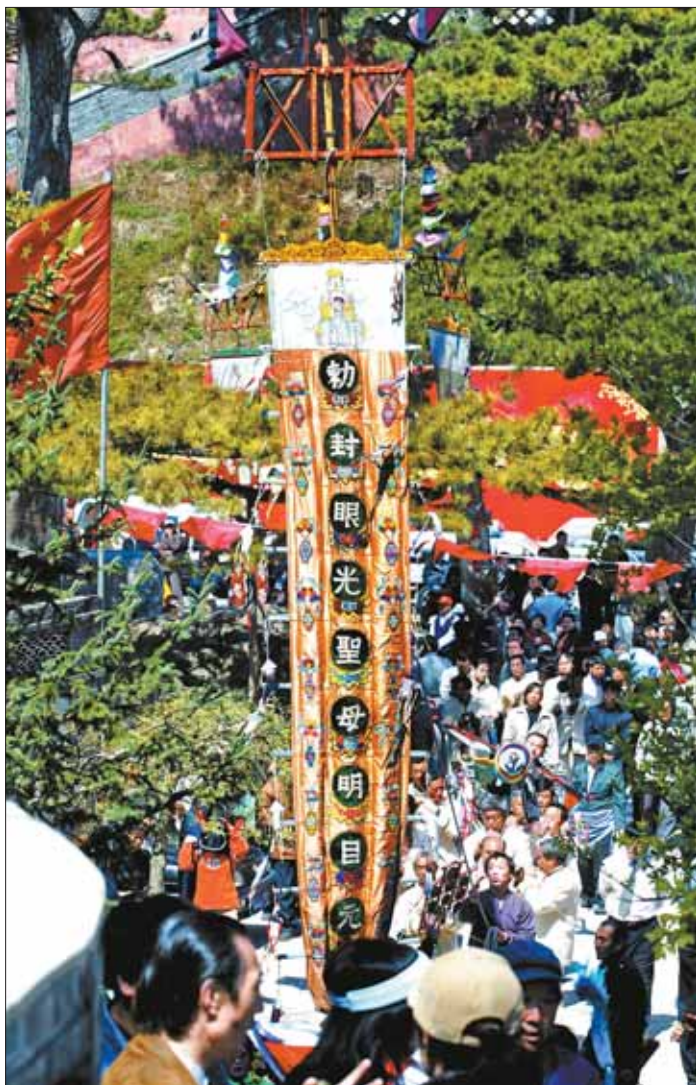


The ancient road to Miaofeng Mountain is famous for gathering pious believers in northern China.

Photos by Yujie



There are several routes to Miaofeng Mountain, with the one that goes through Jinshan Temple the most popular.



The annual temple fair at Miaofeng Mountain has been passed down from the Ming Dynasty.

A place for prayer and healing

Miaofeng Mountain, located in Mentougou District, has a famous temple called Niangniang (Goddess) Temple, built during the Liao Dynasty (907-1125). There are Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian gods enshrined in the temple, which attract all schools of believers from northern China.

Some people claim they have recovered from diseases and various ailments after climbing Miaofeng Mountain. It may be that the hike simply provides some needed physical exercise, but the thought is still a nice one.

There used to be a big annual temple fair at Miaofeng Mountain that started during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Between April 1 and 15 on the Chinese lunar calendar, hundreds of thousands flocked to Miaofeng Mountain. For 15 days, incense smoke would shroud the mountain as people gathered, with flames illuminating the night.

The ancient prayer road to Miaofeng Mountain starts from Bei'anhe Village in Haidian District. There used to be many roads from downtown Beijing to the mountain, but only two have been preserved.

One route starts from Fushi Lu in

Haidian to Junzhuang Town in Mentougou, then to Miaofengshan Village from 109 State Highway. Another one starts from Bei'anhe Village, passing Jinshan Temple in Yangtai Mountain.

The latter road used to be a dirt road before Empress Dowager Cixi, wanting to go to Miaofeng Mountain to burn incense, ordered the court's eunuchs to pave it.

The road is two to three meters in width. Large numbers of workers built roads and bridges in the mountain. It is said that it cost one liang (50 grams) of silver to place each stone, so the road became known as the "golden steps."

The road goes through Yangtaishan Scenic Area, where dense forests are packed with ancient trees. Yangtai Mountain is well known as a spot for sunrises – those wanting to be the first in Beijing to see the sun peek over the horizon should go there.

Villagers on Miaofeng Mountain constantly travel this road to go down to Haidian to buy articles for daily use.

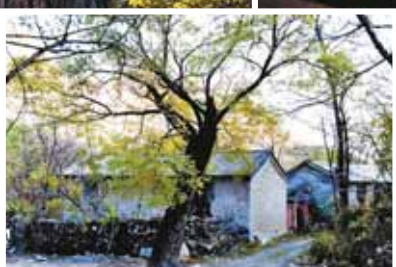
Jinshan Temple, located east of Yangtai Mountain, is famous for its old ginkgo trees. Visitors can drive to Jinshan Temple and climb to Miaofeng Mountain from there.

Continued on page 21...

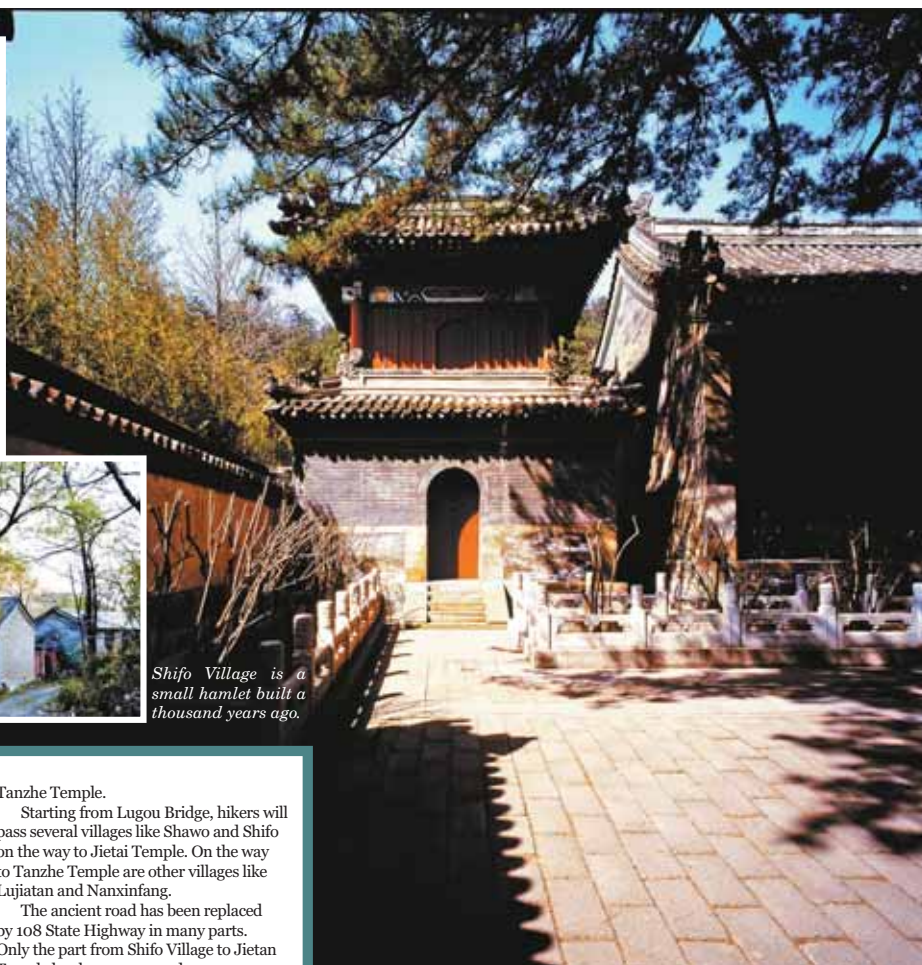


The Temple of Goddess at the top of Miaofeng Mountain

CFP Photos



Shifo Village is a small hamlet built a thousand years ago.



...continued from page 20

Between Bei'anhe Village and the Temple of Goddess are several teahouses for those who want to say a prayer or have a rest. Many still retain their ancient feel, with simple and shabby canopies.

Xiangqiang Tea House, built during Qing, was the first on the ancient road. It was preserved until the Republic of China period (1912-1949), but a new teahouse has since replaced it.

The stones on the road are glossy and slippery, a sign of centuries of use. Along the road, old trees thrive and birds can be heard singing, woodpeckers pecking. During spring and summer, wild peaches, lilacs and flowers from Chinese scholar trees are in full view. In June, rose blossoms are everywhere, attracting many visitors.

Old inscriptions on the sides of cliffs still remain, such as one from Qing scholar that reads *shantalai jinjie*: "golden step for benevolence."

Getting there: Take Subway Line 4 to the Summer Palace Station, then take bus 346 to Bei'anhe Village. Hikers can trek from Bei'anhe to Miaofeng Mountain. Or drive to Jinshan Temple and hike to Miaofeng Mountain from there.

Lutan ancient road

Another famous ancient road for prayers in Mentougou District is Lutan Ancient Road, which is the main road from Marco Polo Bridge (Lugou Bridge) to



Tanzhe Temple.

Starting from Lugou Bridge, hikers will pass several villages like Shawo and Shifo on the way to Jietai Temple. On the way to Tanzhe Temple are other villages like Lujiatan and Nanxinfang.

The ancient road has been replaced by 108 State Highway in many parts. Only the part from Shifo Village to Jietan Temple has been preserved.

Shifo (stone Buddha) Village is a small hamlet built a thousand years ago. It gained the name from a group of stone Buddha statues in the east end of the village. Villagers there live simple lives in old cottages.

East of the village is a 50-meter cliff. There are 18 statues there in different gestures, carved from the top to the foot on the cliff. Around the statues are delicate stone carvings, with some in color.

Under the cliff stands a big Buddha statue as tall as a man. Unfortunately, its head was destroyed during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). The statues were made during the Ming and Qing dynasties, according to archaeological records. Five centuries-old inscriptions can be found on the cliffs.

From Shifo Village, visitors can take Lutan Ancient Road for half an hour to Jietai Temple. The road is flat, with high mountains on both sides. Wild weeds grow between stones. Trees here are mostly bare of leaves, creating a desolate feel.

On the way to Jietai Temple is a Ming Dynasty stone archway. Situated in the west, it faces Jietai Temple. It was restored during Qing, with colorful paintings and couplets on the pillars.

Past the archway is a macadam road that's usually devoid of people. Another 400 meters south is Jietai Temple.

Jietai Temple is known for its pine forest and Liao Dynasty buildings. Ancient roads from Jietai Temple to Tanzhe Temple have been replaced by 108 State Highway, so visitors can take bus 931 to Tanzhe Temple.

Getting there: Take Subway Line 1 to Pingguoyuan Station, then take bus 981 to Shilong Gongyequ stop; walk to Shifo Village from there.

Lutan Ancient Road now only has one section, which goes from Shifo Village to Jietai Temple.

CFP Photos



A group of stone Buddha statues have been carved on a cliff in Shifo Village.



Mentougou gets crowded every April on the Chinese lunar calendar when a temple fair is held there.

Photos by Yujie

Dining



White truffles

In keeping with head chef Matthew McCool's "classic and innovative European" cuisine, Aria is celebrating this glorious fungus with a truffle-themed menu throughout November. Tempt your taste buds with lobster ravioli with white truffle, duck breast with milk skin and white truffle and a chicken liver parfait with truffle. White truffles are the ideal complement to a winter menu.

Where: Aria, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai
Dajie, Chaoyang District
When: November 1-30
Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 36

Spooky Bubbalicious

The award-winning Bubbalicious Sunday brunch presents a Halloween carnival. Enjoy spooktacular scary and spicy food. Show your best costume and join the pumpkin carving competition to win amazing prizes. A special kids' spooky face painting session and candy hunt will make this Halloween a memorable one.

Where: Seasonal Tastes, The Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 11:30 am - 3 pm, October 31
Cost: 428 yuan, 398 yuan, 368 yuan (15 percent gratuity)
Tel: 5922 8880

Cepe presents Bulgari Ginza chef

The Ritz-Carlton Beijing Financial Street is proud to present Luca Fantin, executive chef of Il Ristorante, Bulgari Ginza, Tokyo. Fantin has had his hands in multiple Michelin Star restaurants all around the world, from Rome and Milan to Spain and Tokyo. As a guest chef in Beijing, Cepe will be creating Bulgari-style dishes — contemporary interpretations of traditional Italian cuisine.

This Friday and Saturday, Fantin will be serving his emblematic dishes throughout the day. Come for an evening of indulgence with a seven-course menu sure to impress even the most discerning gourmands.

Where: The Ritz-Carlton Beijing Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dong Jie, Xicheng District
Tel: 6601 6666



Annual caviar jazz dinner

The Schoolhouse's last Country Gourmet dinner of the year will have fresh caviar along with local and seasonal dishes. Come for the fusion dinner, the live jazz and the intimate setting. Champagne and wine will be served throughout the meal. The Caviar supper is limited to 12 guests, so book in advance.

Where: The Schoolhouse, 12 Mutianyu Village, Huairou District
Cost: 680 yuan per person
Tel: 6162 6506

Hotel

Shangri-La opens Golden Circle program to public

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts recently launched its Golden Circle (GC) recognition and award program last week. As of October 25, members can earn and accumulate points that can be redeemed for complimentary room nights, room upgrades, dining and spa privileges at CHI, The Spa and Airline Miles.

GC members can earn one Award Point for each \$1 or local currency equivalent spent. Rewards start at 500 Awards Points and members can combine points with their family members. Golden Circle regularly invites top members to join exclusive events each year.

Members can earn GC Awards Points by staying at Shangri-La or Traders hotels, dining at participating restaurants or enjoying spa treatments at CHI, The Spa. Existing members will continue to receive customary exclusive privileges according to their membership tier.

Starwood Hosts its Top 100 Global Executives in China

This Wednesday, Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. welcomed its top 100 global executives to Beijing for its leadership conference. This marks the first time the leadership conference has met in China, underscoring the importance of China as Starwood's fastest growing hotel and travel market.

Starwood, one of the largest four- and five-star hotel operators in China today, with 62 hotels flying eight of Starwood's nine brand flags, is increasing its long-established lead here with another 86 hotels in the pipeline. It is a fully integrated owner, operator and franchisor of hotels, resorts and residences with the following internationally renowned brands: St. Regis, The Luxury Collection, W, Westin, Le Meridien, Sheraton, Four Points by Sheraton, the recently launched Aloft and Element. China recently became Starwood's second largest hotel market behind only the US, and between now and 2011, one in every three new Starwood hotels will open in China.

Aviation

Singapore Airlines serves Japanese fine cuisine

Starting Sunday, Singapore Airline's Suites, First and Business Class customers traveling between Singapore and Japan, as well as between Tokyo and Los Angeles, can look forward to an even more authentic Japanese dining experience. The new meals are masterfully created by renowned Kaiseki chef Yoshihiro Murata, a member of Singapore Airlines' International Culinary Panel and the owner of three-Michelin-starred Kikunoi Restaurant in Kyoto.

The airline will begin twice-daily flights to Tokyo's Haneda Airport on Sunday to complement its current twice-daily flights to the city's Narita Airport. The airline also flies daily to both Osaka and Nagoya, and five times weekly to Fukuoka.

Fly British Airways business on discount

Customers who book a British Airways' award-winning Club World business class flight between Beijing or Shanghai and Europe before November 30 will enjoy fares starting from 28,000 yuan. Normally, this fare is only available for bookings made 28 days in advance of travel.

British Airways customers flying to European destinations beyond London can also take advantage of the company's frequent flights to countries across the continent with the airline's extensive route network.

For more information and to book Club World tickets, visit britishairways.com/travel/home/public/en_cn.

Event



Zeta Bar pole dancing competition

Zeta Bar is bringing back its hottest Pole Dancing Competition! After the first overwhelming success in May, Zeta Bar is collaborating with Love Show Studio to show off the hottest moves from the hottest girls.

Come and join Zeta Bar and cheer for the wonderful dancers. The beautiful finalists will compete for the capital's Pole Dancing crown and a top cash prize. Get ready for sassy moves, seductive drinks, upbeat House music and great fun at the city's sexiest party.

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: From 10 pm, November 13
Tel: 5865 5050

Hilton presents dinner with the stars

The award-winning Hilton Beijing Wangfujing is presenting its "Seven Courses, Six Maestros, Five Stars, One Night Only" event for a third time. Six of the top Michelin-rated chefs of the culinary universe will meet November 22 for one night of collaboration with Hilton Beijing Wangfujing's head chef Yu

Xianggu. Their masterpiece menu will include regional and local specialties in a seven-course menu.

Couscous party

Come for a hearty North African meal at the Novotel Beijing Sanyuan. Reserve a seat for the Couscous Party at The Square and enjoy a friendly and festive atmosphere with oriental sounds, a disc jockey and belly dancers.

Where: Novotel Beijing Sanyuan, Tower 18, A5 Shuguang Xi Li, Chaoyang District

When: From 7 pm, November 5
Cost: 150 yuan (15 percent gratuity)
Tel: 5829 6666 (By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Making a monkey out of me

By Li Zhixin

Ever since Taiwanese magician Liu Qian dazzled viewers with his magic show on CCTV's spring festival gala, young people have been increasingly attracted to magic.

Last Sunday, Zhang Ting, a friend of mine, and I went to a party with office workers and university students to exchange magic tricks.

"Magic combines math, physics and chemistry and can inspire our imagination," said Feng Bin, a young guy who was performing a trick involving playing cards. "Learning magic is more fun than playing computer games."

His tricks involved an impressive amount of dexterity. It caught Zhang's attention. She told me on the sly that she was fond of the guy and wanted to learn more about him.

"His firm and resolute look while doing magic is very adorable. I want to get his cell phone number later," she said.

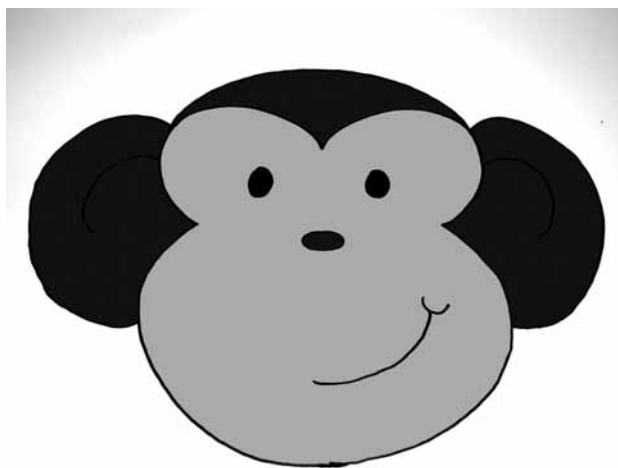
After the performance, Feng walked down and happened to sit beside her. She leaned over and asked him shyly, "Is it hard to learn magic?"

"Yes. The training is very tedious and hard," Feng said.

Thus began a long conversation between the two, with me nearby trying to catch their words.

"Many of my colleagues became wild about learning magic after watching Liu Qian's performance on CCTV. Are you also Liu's fan?" Zhang asked.

"No, the reason I learned magic is I don't want to be treated as a working machine by others. You know, one of my



friends always makes a monkey out of me at classmates' parties, as I am a man of few words in social situations."

"Make a monkey out of you?"

Zhang was confused. "How can he conjure a monkey out of you? Where did he learn that?"

"No, no. He can't do that. To make a monkey out of me means to play a joke on me. At reunion parties, we always play some games and anyone who loses the game has to perform in front of everyone. But my friend usually acts in

collusion with others to make me lose. I always end up looking bad because I can't carry a tune and I can't dance or tell jokes."

"How awful."

"Nah, he's mischievous, but he doesn't do monkey business."

"You mean he doesn't imitate monkeys?"

Feng laughed. "No, I mean he never does immoral or illegal things. Actually, he has a sense of humor, and is one of the most dependable people I know."

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Honorific Guest

温馨提示

尊敬的客人：

感谢您在临安客栈。请您珍惜爱护客栈的卫生设施。如由您造成的毛巾破损、污渍将由您个人负责赔偿。请您注意防火，如不慎摔倒由客人自负。请您珍惜资源，节约用水用电。

再次感谢您的光临！

临安客栈

Attention

Honorific Guest:

Thank you to come our Linan Inn, and invite you to cherish to take good care of the inn's hygiene facilities, such as the towel result ined by you damaged. Foul stuff, will from your personal and responsible for indemnification moreover invite your right. Defend the mattress that fall down, if the immodesty fall down the guest complacent. Please treasure resources, water and power conservation.

Thank you for your visit again.

Linan Inn

By Terry Boyd-Zhang

I am currently marking a batch of essays which look remarkably similar to this sign. On one hand, it makes me despair of my ability as an English teacher. On the other hand, it sure would be tedious if we all spoke the same Mickey-D's Americanized English!

Attention, Honorific Guest – at least we are not a "horrific" guest, an easily made and unspell-checkable typo – Thank you to come our Linan Inn. Before we get to the grammar and the structural concerns, such as spacing before and after commas, let me point out that there is a capital at the beginning of the sentence. That's one mark for Linan, in my opinion.

The rest of the sign kind of falls

apart. Still, there does appear to be something of an outline. First, keep the place clean – I'm guessing this sign was spotted in a guestroom bathroom, not in the Inn's elevator. Second, although it might sound somewhat like "respect other guests," the Chinese version is actually saying, "Watch the slippery floor. If you fall down, it's your own fault." The word "mattress" does not appear in the Chinese at all. The English translation invites one to wonder what kinds of things have gone on in the Linan Inn in the past. Third, save water and electricity, advice quickly on its way to becoming common sense.

What I love most about this sign is the French accent on "visite" at the end. Isn't it wonderful that Chinglish exists?

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. The current work made me felt bored.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): I came across this sentence a few days ago and I felt that the writer was confused with the usage of the infinitive as part of a complex object. As we know, we should say: It makes me feel good, or it makes me feel bad. "Me" plus "to feel" constitutes the complex object of the verb "to make." So, you cannot possibly use the past participle of the verb *to feel*. It is all right to say: I felt bad yesterday. However, in a complex object structure, it should be: It made me feel bad yesterday. You cannot possibly say: It made me felt bad yesterday. Do you see the difference? So, the right way to say it should be: The current work made me feel bored.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Now, this makes me feel worried to think that my students stating their boredom about my last grammar lesson. You know, you could throw out your feelings altogether and rearrange the sentence to be: I am bored with the current work – but hopefully not the assigned grammar exercises!

2. Some says it is good and others say it is bad.

ZS: The writer forgot that "some" is a plural pronoun in this case. It actually means "some people" instead of "someone." I will give you some examples to show that "some" is used as a plural pronoun: Some still believe that he was innocent of the crime. Some say yes and some say no. The soldiers, some drunk, started fighting each other. So, the right way to say it should be: Some say it is good and others say it is bad. However, "some" sometimes does mean something singular, as in, Some kind of miracle will happen. A certain some person may object. We found him lying in some ditch beside the river. Give me some work. I have nothing to do. Would you have some wine? So, don't be confused when "some" is an adjective modifying a singular noun (some person) or something abstract (some wine) with when it is modifying a pronoun (some people) that is invariably plural.

TBZ: Some say Chinese is hard but others say English is harder. I say the jury is still out and others readily agree with me.

3. The autumn leaves yellow.

ZS: I changed the sentence some time ago into "The autumn leaves turn yellow." Yes, this is standard English, the English we have been taught and have been using all the time. However, the sample sentence is correct. In this case, "yellow" is used as an intransitive verb which means "to turn or become yellow." It can also be used a transitive verb, as in, A yellowing page in someone's diary, old yellowing newspapers. I'll show you some more examples: The photograph yellowed with age. Wild daffodils were yellowing the grassy slopes. It is interesting to note that when the word "red" or "black" is used as a verb, it turns into "to redden" or "to blacken."

TBZ: Although the sentence is correct, my ear would like to hear it in a poem or, at least, in a longer sentence; for example: The autumn leaves yellow and hoards of tourists wreak environmental havoc on the Western Hills. Funny, because "yellowed" and "yellowing" sound fine, while "yellow" on its own sounds awkward. Blue can be used as in: The angry child held her breath until she turned blue.

Knight and Day (2010)

Movie of the week

The Hollywood superstars Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz have teamed up for the first time in this summer's *Knight and Day*, where they manage some great chemistry.

Critics say Cruise has lost his appeal to young viewers, but ignore the negative buzz. He still is among the best actors that people wig out over. And if light-hearted action and romance are what you are looking for in a movie, you cannot go wrong with *Knight and Day*.

Synopsis

Knight and Day follows the adventures of Roy Miller, a spy on the run, and June Havens, a car restorer. When the small-town girl meets the mysterious stranger, she thinks she's found the man of her dreams. But she soon discovers he's a fugitive super-spy, who thrusts her into a thrilling cat-and-mouse chase around the globe. As the bullets and sparks fly, June must decide if her Knight in shining armor is a dangerous traitor or the love of her life.



Vocabulary

1. **be all ears**: to be eager to listen
 2. **contain the situation**: to have thing under control
 3. **take the edge off**: make one relax
 4. **snatch me off**: to kidnap
 5. **stressed out**: under extreme pressure
- (By Huang Daoheng)

Scene 1: in a plane

(June decides to confess her feelings to Roy.)

June Havens (J): Is that tequila?

Roy Miller (R): Do not worry.

J: My God, you're in a relationship.

R: I'm so sorry. No, that's not it.

J: OK, I'm all ears (1). What is it? Are we landing?

R: No, not yet. Listen, there's no need to panic, I have **contained the situation** (2).

J: Situation?

R: Uh, yeah ... We've lost the pilots.

J: Where did they go?

R: I mean they're dead.

J: The pilots are dead?

R: Shot, yes.

J: They were shot? By whom?

R: I did. Actually I shot the first pilot and he shot the second pilot accidentally ... It's just one of those things.

J: Seriously ... that's just great. Really, I'm relieved you're taking this so well.



Scene 2: on a wasteland

(Roy lands the plane on a wasteland and blows it up.)

R: Take a little sip of that. It'll **take the edge off** (3).

J: Are you shot?

R: Yeah, just a little scrape.

J: That's good news.

R: June, we have to discuss what's gonna happen next. You need to go to the hospital, and prison maybe. There's people who'll come looking for you now. Bad people.

J: I feel a little weird.

R: Oh yeah, that will pass when you fall asleep, which should be a couple

of minutes.

J: What?

R: I need you to listen, June.

J: Did you drug me?

R: Yes.

J: You drugged me?

R: Yes, for your own good. These bad people who are going to come and see you, they're gonna ask you about me. You need to tell them that you don't know me. June? You need to tell them you don't remember anything and you need to avoid getting into any vehicle with them at all costs.

J: Wait. Who are they?

R: Serious people, June. They'll probably identify themselves as federal agents, and they'll DIP you.

J: Dip me? In what?

R: Disinformation Protocol. They'll

tell you a story about me, about how I am mentally unstable, paranoid. I'm violent and dangerous and it'll all sound very convincing.

J: I am already convinced.

R: Here's a few common DIP cue words to listen for: reassuring words. Words like stabilized, secure, safe. If they say these words particularly with repetition, it means they're going to kill you.

J: Oh, God!

R: Or intern you somewhere offshore for a very long time. Stay with me. If they say you're safe, they're gonna kill me.

J: Do not get in what?

R: Vehicles. Any vehicles. You know? Just run.

J: I run.

R: And if they ask you about me. I don't know you. I don't know you at all.

Scene 3: At restaurant

(Rodney meets June at a restaurant.)

Rodney (R): There you are. June?

J: Rodney?

R: Hey. What are you doing here?

Hey guys, say hello to June. That's some dress.

J: Thanks.

R: Everything all right?

J: Yes. No, it's ... It's complicated.

R: You know what? I've been feeling the same way. You wanna talk? Maybe over some pie. My point is that plane crash made me think about our breakup.

J: I wanna talk about the plane crash. Okay?

R: Sure. What about it?

J: I was on it. I mean in it. I was in it.

R: So you were in the plane crash?

J: I wasn't supposed to be on it, but I was and there was this guy who was some sort of like secret agent or something and he killed everybody on board and then he landed the plane. Next thing you know. I wake up. I'm in my room. I have no idea how I got there. He must've drugged me or something. And then I go to April's wedding 'cos I had to wear this ridiculous dress. And then these other guys, these other agents come. They **snatch me off** (4). Next thing you know, I'm in Grand Theft Auto on the I-93. Why're you touching my hand?

R: Because I'm here for you. Geez, you are so **stressed out** (5). And I get it, I completely understand. I mean your little sister is getting married and that is stressful.

J: What are you talking about, Rodney? You didn't even listen to what I was talking about.